



Gas probe at site before building can begin

QUARRY HOMES GET GO-AHEAD

Report by Richard Guttridge

DEVELOPERS will have to investigate issues with underground gas before works can start on transforming a disused quarry into a residential area of more than 280 homes.

FCC Environment has been given the go-ahead to proceed with a 30-year masterplan to fill in the Edwin Richards Quarry at Rowley Regis and build 281 homes on its southern edge.

But the developer has admitted there is work to be done before construction can begin to ensure that the site can be built upon.

Concerns were raised at a meeting of Sandwell Council's planning committee that there were issues surrounding gas emissions from the site.

The quarry has been used for landfill in recent years with household waste having gone into the ground. This will be removed and replaced with soil and non-hazardous materials as part of the development process.

It is hoped the gaping hole that is the quarry will eventually become a green space to be used by residents of the new homes.

FCC Environment said the development would regenerate the land and extend Rowley Regis. Bosses have also said it is not 'practical, sustainable or desirable' to leave the site as it is. But Dave Molland, from FCC Environment, admitted there were problems to be overcome.

He said: "There is a gas issue that has been ongoing for a while and we are in discussions about where the gas is coming from. There will have to be a phase of study on the site to look at the ground conditions and assess gas migration."

Lorries

Mr Molland added: "This application is an outline, the principle of it. There are a lot of details to be finalised and there is a lot more work to do."

A huge waste management facility would be built on the site in order to manage the tens of thousands of tonnes of soil. Some 6,000 tons of materials would be driven to the site in lorries every week. A gas utilisation plant and a waste vehicle depot would also be set up.

The outline plans were approved by councillors after they had visited the 100,000 sq ft quarry ahead of their meeting. Experts at FCC said the quarry poses provides 'health and safety management issues' in its current state.

The homes could be built by the beginning of the next decade but the overall project to fill in the quarry would take up to 30 years.

MUMS URGED TO BLING BUGGIES TO RACE FOR LIFE



Sophie Hansen with baby Scarlet, front, are joined by, from left, Nikki Dalgliesh, Keely Russon, Katie Steventon, Kelly Driver-Fisher and children

DUDLEY mums are being urged to bling their buggies in pink and involve their children in this weekend's Race for Life.

Thousands of women are anticipated to take part in either the 5k or 10k event at Himley Hall on Sunday to raise money for Cancer Research.

Netherton mum Sophie Hansen, aged 22, is taking part with her ten-month-old daughter Scarlet and her mum, Ruth Rosendal Hansen. The three generations will take part in memory of Sophie's nan, Patricia Adams, who died of lung cancer seven years ago.

Sophie, who works at KFC in Halesowen, said: "As a mum, I wanted to support Race for Life so I can play my role in helping beat cancer for future generations."

"A lot of women don't realise that Race for Life is pushchair friendly and walking with a buggy is a great way for new mums to keep fit. What better motivation to start training than knowing you're doing your bit to help beat cancer sooner?"

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is a non-competitive series of 5k and 10k events which raises mil-

lions of pounds every year for research into more than 200 different cancers. Last year more than 3,000 women took part in Race for Life in Dudley and raised £180,000.

Tracey Duffy, Cancer Research UK's Dudley Event Manager, said: "Young people today are the generation who could see ground-breaking treatments and cures for cancer in their lifetime. But we'll only get the knowledge and technology we need to win the war on cancer through research."

Visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

VIOLENCE

Woman was attacked as she walked home

POLICE are hunting a sex attacker after a woman was assaulted in Stourbridge as she walked home following a night out.

Police have launched an urgent appeal for information after the 25-year-old woman was attacked in Green Street at around 2.50am on Sunday, June 28.

The woman was walking home when she was approached by a man, described as being in his early 20s with a foreign accent, West Midlands Police said. He followed her for a short distance before pulling her into a car park where he then assaulted her.

FREEDOM

Civic honours for three councillors

THREE councillors with a combined public service spanning more than 120 years are to receive civic honours.

A Dudley Council meeting on Monday will discuss honours for Councillor David Sparks and former Mayors of Dudley councillors David Caunt and Pat Martin.

Former council leaders Councillor Sparks and Mr Caunt would receive the freedom of the borough, and Mrs Martin is set to be made an honorary alderman.

CHARITY

Fun day will raise funds for little Leah

A FUNDRAISING day is being held at a Black Country rugby club to help raise funds for treatment of a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.

The Leah's Wish campaign has been set up to raise £35,000 for Leah Davy from Rowley Regis. So far more than £19,500 has come in.

The event at Warley Rugby Club in Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, will run from 11am on Saturday. Admission is free and there will be live music, bouncy castles and live music.

Leah, born three months premature at Russells Hall Hospital, is unable to walk.

INSIDE

CANINE CAPERS AT CARNIVAL



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Robber in silver helmet is on camera



The suspect in his distinctive helmet, as seen on the store's CCTV

A THIEF wearing a distinctive motorbike helmet is being hunted by police after brandishing what is believed to have been a gun during a robbery at a supermarket in Halesowen.

Police were called to the Co-op on Manor Lane, Howley Grange, after the man wearing the silver helmet walked into the store and made threats to staff.

He demanded cash and then left the store by the back door during the incident on Monday, June 29.

Detective Constable Simon Wil-

mott, from Dudley's Acquisitive Crime Team, said: "We are sure someone will recognise the distinctive silver and black helmet and may know someone who owns one that matches that seen in the CCTV."

Shaken

"Fortunately, the members of staff were unharmed during the robbery but were obviously left very shaken."

Anyone with information can call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Call for a full review after hospital blunders

THREE separate blunders reported by health chiefs running a hospital in the Black Country have prompted a MP to call for a full review — to ensure that lessons are learned for the future.

In one case, a mother had to go under the knife for a second time to remove a swab left inside her following a Caesarean section.

The three 'never events' were recorded by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust in the past three months. The trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital, City Hospital, in Birmingham, and Rowley Regis Hospital, said it had been 'open' with patients over their mistakes.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris called the incidents 'very serious mistakes' and urged action to discover the cause.

The Carew Quality Commission, which told the trust it 'requires improvement' in a recent report, said it would be holding talks with the trusts after the botched procedures came to light.

Health bosses revealed that in one of the 'never events' a patient had the wrong kidney treated for kidney stones.

Preventable

The incident involving the new mother's second operation occurred at City Hospital. They revealed another patient was anaesthetised for an operation on the wrong limb at Sandwell Hospital.

'Never events' are preventable serious incidents that has the potential to cause serious harm or death.

Mr Morris said: "These incidents are very serious mistakes, and full reviews need to take place to ensure that this does not happen again. I welcome the trust's honesty in reporting these 'never events' openly and I'm assured that the necessary steps will be taken to protect patients against preventable mistakes."

Medical director Richard Stedman said: "Never events should not happen and yet we know that they can and do occur in NHS organisations across the West Midlands. Staff worked hard to achieve over 400 days here with no never events. I am very confident we can continue to make changes to reduce the risk of their occurrence."

Pub campaigners toast success



Cheers — Campaigner Tim Haskey with landlady Laura Eden and supporters of The Haden Cross

Campaigners who secured protection for a Halesowen pub are celebrating after developers ran out of time to appeal.

A review took place after the Haden Cross in Halesowen Road was listed by Sandwell Council as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Pub owner, Jersey-based property developer New River Retail, had requested an internal review of the decision, which as owner it has a legal right to do.

Last month Sandwell Council

confirmed its decision to list the pub and car park, as an ACV, which allows the community to put together a bid should it go up for sale.

The owner had a month to appeal the decision, which has now expired without a bid being lodged.

Friends group chairman Tim Haskey said: "Congratulation to all Friends of the Haden Cross. New River are now out of time to appeal our ACV."

The Haden Cross was the first pub in Sandwell to be given ACV

status. New River Retail has declined to comment on the council's decision.

Meanwhile, more than 300 people signed a petition against New Retail plans to build a Co-op store on the site of the Maypole in Bassnage Road, Halesowen.

A campaign has been launched to save the pub from demolition after an application went to Dudley Council.

New River Retail bought 200 pubs from Marston's in 2013.

Raids seize 11,000 fake cigarettes across city

ILLEGAL cigarettes worth nearly £3,000 have been seized in a series of raids on shops in Birmingham.

Trading standards officers and a team of sniffer dogs struck at stores, off-licences and a cafe across the city. They confiscated a total of 11,320 individual cigarettes from six premises — with more than half taken from just one shop.

Monday's raids were part of a crack-down on the sale of illicit tobacco. These are products which have either been smuggled in, illegally produced or for which no duty has been paid.

Trading standards said the products will be destroyed. The names of the businesses have not been revealed at this stage of the investigation.

Crime

Councillor Barbara Dring, chairman of the city council's licensing and public protection committee, said: "These raids have successfully taken around £3,000 worth of illegal tobacco out of circulation, which we believe has strong links with wider criminal activity and brings crime into our neighbourhoods. This is why it's important to clamp down on it."

"Those involved in dealing in illegal tobacco may be encouraging people, including children, to smoke by providing a cheap source. Selling illegal tobacco is a crime which also impacts on those businesses that are trading legally."

"Seizures were made at six premises and offenders need to know that they will face consequences if they choose to deal in these illegal products."

Mental health pledge by MP

AN MP has said he will act as a 'champion for mental health' after being re-elected to chair a cross party group.

James Morris, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, will continue to chair the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health. He has chaired the group since 2013 and played an influential role in helping shape mental health policy.

"Most people would agree that mental health has sometimes been the Cinderella service in the NHS, underfunded and not given the same priority as other health conditions," said Mr Morris. "I have helped publish a report into 'parity of esteem' which has highlighted recommendations for the Government. I will also ensure that the Government fulfils its commitments on mental health."

£5m revamp will create 150 jobs

A £5 million revamp of a Black Country retail park has been given the go-ahead by Sandwell planners. Quadrant Estates has been given planning permission to give Wednesbury's Gallagher Retail Park a facelift including three new restaurants creating around 150 jobs.

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Australian firm selling its half of Merry Hill

QUEENSLAND Investment Corporation is selling its 50 per cent stake in Merry Hill for around £500 million.

The Aussie firm bought its share in the huge shopping complex from former owners Westfield, an Australian shopping centres group, for £524m in February 2007.

The stake is expected to formally come to market later this month and QIC has appointed leading commercial property consultants CBRE to handle the sale.

The shopping centre, now re-branded as Intu Merry Hill, is run by Intu Properties, which bought the other 50 per cent stake in March last year for £407.5m from Westfield.

Mike Butterworth, chief operating officer of Intu, said: "We are aware of QIC's plans to sell its half share of Intu Merry Hill. The change has no implications for Intu's ownership, management or future strategy and we look forward to working with a new investor."

Customers

"Within the centre, for our customers, retailers and restaurants, it is business as usual."

Merry Hill has 1.4m sq ft of retail space on two levels with 214 shop units and a further 3000 sq ft of other retail space. Its 290 stores and shops attracts around 25 million shopping visits each year..

QIC, created in 1991 by the Queensland government, holds numerous other retail assets mainly in Australia.

Warning to watch out for thieves

THIEVES have been stealing iPads, mobile phone and purses from people shopping at supermarkets in Blackheath.

Seven thefts took place last week at stores in Oldbury Road, Halesowen Street and Long Lane.

One victim had an iPad stolen after they left it in their trolley, while another had their phone taken after they left it on top of their shopping while packing.

A third victim's purse was pinched from inside their bag when it was left on top of their trolley.

Blackheath Neighbourhood Police Team is urging people to be vigilant.

Anyone who spots any suspicious behaviour is asked to call police on 101.

Tennis club serves up family fun day

A TENNIS club will be marking its golden anniversary with a family fun and taster day open to all on Saturday from 2pm. Wollaston Tennis Club, now 50-years-old, has courts off Prestwood Drive at Stourton.

Shoes the one — head over heels in love!



Phil and Donna, reunited over a shoe

IT'S a real Cinderella story for childhood sweethearts Phil Wiggins and Donna-Anne Hadley who have got married following a chance meeting over a missing shoe.

Phil and Donna – who had last seen each other 30 years previously – were reunited in 2013 when Donna took bags of clothes and shoes into the Cash In Clothes shop on Hagley Road West, Oldbury, where Phil is a volunteer.

Shortly after leaving Donna realised she had only dropped off one of her leopard print heels, and it was

when she went back days later to hand in the other one that the fairy-tale reunion took place.

Phil, aged 48, who lives with Donna in Clent View Road, Bartley Green, said: "It was a real Cinderella moment as Donna had only come in with one shoe to the pair."

"It was a real chance meeting as I only volunteer on certain days. We recognised each other instantly and started catching up, within a month we had moved in together."

Phil and Donna first met at Adams Hill High School, now Bartley Green

School, in the early 1980s and became school sweethearts when Donna was 13 and Phil was 15.

Donna, 46 said: "From the moment I went into the shop we hit it off – it was just like old times."

The pair got married on Saturday in Somerset. In the years apart Phil moved to Ireland before returning to Birmingham six years ago, where he also volunteers for the Animal House Rescue charity. He has three teenaged children from a previous marriage. Donna is a receptionist with National Probation Service in Birmingham.

MP leads campaign to halt enterprise zone

MORE than 3,600 people have signed petitions against controversial plans to create an enterprise zone next to the M5 in Halesowen.

Dudley Council has agreed to investigate the possibility of transforming land bordering Manor Way and the motorway into a hub for businesses.

But there are fears the development site could incorporate part of the green belt.

An online petition called Save Halesowen's Countryside has been signed by more than 3,090 people. Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris also launched a petition after concerns were raised by constituents, and it has more than 540 names.

Dudley Council last week agreed to press ahead with plans to develop more than 200 acres of land bordering Manor Way and the motorway into a new hub for businesses, which they say could create up to 6,000 jobs.

New firms could also be able to take advantage of incentives offered by being part of the enterprise zone, such as tax breaks.

But campaigners fear a stretch of green belt will be swallowed up by the scheme which has been modelled on the i54 on the Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire border.

The Halesowen Abbey Trust has attacked the plans saying the area is 'historic countryside that Dudley Council are seriously threatening'.

Proposals

Dudley Council has stressed that no final decisions have been made and that they are merely exploring the proposals at present.

MP Mr Morris said: "We have launched this petition so that the people of Halesowen can demonstrate to Dudley Council how wrong they are with these proposals.

"Our local greenbelt is something we should be preserving for future generations, not condemning to large scale development. This particular site is bordering the Halesowen Abbey ruins, which is an important part of our local heritage. I encourage all of Halesowen's residents to demonstrate their feelings and sign this petition."

Dudley development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was important to look at the 'bigger picture' of the region's economy and promised 'detailed consultation' with local people.

Mayor sees what's app-ening



It's an app-y day for Chairman of the Black Country Festival Steve Edwards, Black Country Chamber of Commerce President Ninder Johal, the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho and Freecom International Managing Director Mike Geer

A FREE app has been launched to keep people up-to-speed on this year's Black Country Festival.

The app can be downloaded onto smartphones, and features the latest news and events from the festival, which runs throughout this month.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, visited the home of Freecom Internet Services Ltd at the Waterfront, in Brierley Hill, where the app was created.

Mike Geer, who runs the company, offered to create the app free of charge to support the festival. He said: "We're really pleased with how it's turned out and hope thousands of local people will download it. Dudley Council have supported the festival so we thought it was right the mayor should officially launch the app."

Councillor Waltho said: "The staff at Freecom have been great and it's a tremendous gesture

they have created the app free of charge for the community."

Black Country Day is on Tuesday, July 14. The festival's main event is in Dudley Stone Street Square on Saturday and other events on Saturday include Sedgley Fun Day at St Chad's Primary School, Catholic Lane; Wall Heath Summer Fair; Gornal Fun Day at Vale Street Rec; and on Sunday Pennett. Fun Day at The Dell Stadium.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Friend initiative needs more help

VOLUNTEERS are needed to support a befriending service which helps vulnerable people in the Black Country.

The aim of the scheme, developed by Dudley Council's housing support team, is to provide assistance to housing tenants who are lonely, isolated or facing a difficult time.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "The befriending service was launched in July 2014 and it has already made a positive impact upon individuals' lives."

Email stayconnected@dudley.gov.uk or call 07827 873394.

Students briefed in law career talk

TWO solicitors spoke to students during a careers day at a school in Halesowen.

Windsor High School and Sixth Form holds a series of Reaching your Dreams seminars for students to provide inspiration for jobs.

Lauren Hartigan-Pritchard and Stefania Fulford, both of Thursfields Solicitors, talked about how to go about obtaining a career in law during the most recent event at the school.

Windsor High School's training manager Alison Halford said: "Students found it really useful."

Vintage cars to rally at the castle

VINTAGE cars will be rolling into Dudley Castle courtyard for the West Midlands Classic Car Club's annual show next weekend.

The event has taken place at the venue for 26 years and this year's show will be held on July 19. Around 80 machines spanning nine decades will be in the line-up. Organiser Maurice Cole said: "The show at the castle is always a special event and we're really looking forward to making this year's another date to remember."

Black Country author talks about her novels

A BLACK Country author will be talking about her latest novel set in the region at a Dudley library.

Anna Lawrence Pietroni, originally from Halesowen, will be giving the free talk in Netherton Library, Northfield Road, on Thursday, July 16, at 10.30am.

Her first novel Ruby's Spoon, set on the Black Country canals, was published in 2010. The writer, who lectures at Birmingham City University, is working on two further novels.

Free gig at museum

ROCK music will be heard at an historic venue when local bands, singers and dancers take to the stage as part of a free outdoor gig.

Musicians will entertain in the grounds of Cradley Heath's Haden Hill House Museum on Sunday from noon to 6pm in aid of cancer charities.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SUMMER: The season when, having spent nine months waiting for a few hot days, you remember you don't really like hot days.

WOMEN in Japan are reportedly flocking to a zoo to see Shabani, an 18-year-old silverback gorilla who has been likened to a male model with "brooding good looks." I have a blind friend who has just received a new guide dog, a flat-coat retriever which is a similar hit with the ladies. One female admirer sighed: "If that dog was human, he'd be Poldark."

TV subtitles which are produced instantaneously for news bulletins are a rich source of merriment. But when the sub-titles have all the time in the world, there's no excuse for getting it wrong. I am currently ploughing through the box set of the fine Gillian Anderson thriller The Fall (BBC), set in Belfast. The subtitles refer to those well-known villains, the "distant Republicans." Dissident, as it turns out.



A READER may have solved the two biggest problems facing Europe, African refugees and Greek debt. He writes: "Why not combine the two? Write off the interest repayments and in return Greece finds a home for all the migrants and refugees that no other member states can accommodate. The population growth and house-building boom will stimulate their economy and they will grow their way back to economic fitness."

MEANWHILE, is anyone considering a scheme for British families to sponsor Greek families? There is tremendous sympathy towards ordinary Greek people. A hundred quid a month may not be a lot to some UK families but it would be manna from heaven for a cash-strapped family in Athens or Corfu. After the First World War, British towns and cities adopted war-wrecked towns in France and Flanders to help in their recovery. Politicians and bankers clearly haven't a clue how to get Greece back on its feet. Maybe it's time for the ordinary people of Europe to have a go.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Council to cover costs of victims' funerals

THE funerals of three generations of a Black Country family who were killed in the Tunisia terror attack will be paid for by Sandwell Council.

The gesture comes as it was revealed memorials will be placed at the Banks's Stadium in tribute to the three Saddlers fans – Adrian Evans, his father Patrick Evans and nephew Joel Richards.

By Richard Guttridge

Council leader Darren Cooper revealed that the authority would cover burial fees and other funeral costs for the victims.

Adrian Evans, from Bilston, worked for Sandwell Council. Councillor Cooper said it was 'the least we could do'. The gesture is expected to save the family around £5,000.

He said: "We have spoken to the funeral directors and it has been agreed between the council and the co-operative to waive the fees for the burial and the funeral for the family."

Silence

The funerals are expected to take place in the next few weeks.

They were among 30 British holidaymakers shot dead by gunman Seifeddine Rezgui on a beach and in a hotel at the resort of Sousse.

More than 2,000 people observed a minute's silence for 19-year-old Joel, Patrick, aged 78, both from Wednesbury, and Adrian, 49, at the council house in Oldbury on Friday — and thousands

more joined a nationwide silence for all the victims.

A separate service was held at Walsall's Banks's Stadium, which was attended by Joel's brother Owen Richards, aged 16, who survived the attack, and his mother Suzanne.

The victims were Saddlers fans and hundreds of supporters paid their respects along with Walsall manager Dean Smith and the first team squad on what was designated a national day of mourning. The service and minute silence was held amid a sea of scarves, flowers and tributes.

A statement on the official Walsall FC Facebook page thanked the football family for the tributes and said memorial bricks will be put outside the stadium. On the club's Facebook page, Joel's mother Suzanne also said thank you for kind words of support: "On behalf of my family, a big thank you. Walsall FC did my son, dad and brother proud."

Volunteers Mac a difference



Volunteers from McDonald's Mike Matthews and Kira Smith

A TEAM of volunteers rolled up their sleeves and grabbed paint brushes to help spruce up Halesowen town centre.

Judges from Britain in Bloom will be coming to Halesowen to cast their eyes over the town on Wednesday and volunteers from fast food chain McDonald's did their bit to help out with final preparations.

Ten members of staff from five local restaurants gave up their time for free to spruce up Somers Square.

Eve O'Connor, chairman of the Halesowen in Bloom committee, said: "We have had volunteers from all over the town come out and give us a hand."

"The staff from McDonald's did a great job painting, gardening and litter picking and really making the town look in bloom. We are really grateful for all the help and time that people put in — it has really made a big difference in the town."

The annual campaign has seen gardens, buildings and shop fronts transformed by colourful flowers as the community comes together. Ahead of the judges' afternoon visit, Mrs O'Connor added: "It is all coming together very nicely."

Tributes to nurse killed in accident

TRIBUTES have been paid to a hospital nurse who died after being thrown from his motorbike in a crash on his way to work in Dudley.

Christian Hugh Davies – known as Hugh – was hailed as 'caring and courageous'.

The 50-year-old died after his Honda was involved in a collision with a white van, around a mile from Russells Hall Hospital where he worked.

The crash happened on Pedmore Road at the junction with The Gateway just before 7pm on June 30 and police are appealing for witnesses.

Tributes have been paid to Mr Davies, a charge nurse who had worked at the hospital since 1991. His partner Julie Adams said: "Hugh is the love of my life, my best friend and my soul mate. He is the best thing that ever happened to me and made me laugh every day." Mr Davies' daughter Tanaya, 19, described her dad as her hero and said that he was 'a caring, courageous and very cheeky man'.

Mr Davies lived in Amblecote having grown up in Kingswinford. It is understood staff across the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust were observing a minute's silence in his memory. A book of condolence had been opened at the hospital.

The driver of the van was spoken to at the scene. Anyone who witnessed the collision is urged to call Sgt Allan Wood on 101.

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Carnival is back with better site



Crowds enjoying Halesowen Carnival in Highfields Park

THE Black Country Festival began in glorious sunshine as hundreds turned out for the return of the Halesowen Carnival.

It had been 30 years since the event was last held and there was no shortage of smiling faces at Highfields Park on Saturday for the revived event.

Dancers, live music and a dog show were among the attractions put on by organisers to accompany stalls around the edge of the field.

Councillor Stuart Henley, who is on the organising committee, said:

A late change of venue caused a headache but Halesowen's big day was a rip-roaring success

"We have had brilliant feedback from everyone here. Everyone is having fun. This is a community event all about bringing local people and businesses together."

"We will build on this in the future now people have seen how successful and popular it has been."

Just a few weeks ahead of the event, organisers' plans were disrupted when they were forced into a late venue change after council officials said pathways in Hunting-

tree Park, which previously hosted the event, were not strong enough to cope with heavy vehicles bringing equipment on the site.

But despite spending an extra £1,000 on revised promotional material, Councillor Henley said he was pleased with the new venue.

He explained: "I was disappointed about missing out on Huntingtree Park but personally now I think this is a better site and hopefully it will be the site for many, many years."

The carnival celebrated one of the Black Country's best loved comic, Tommy Mundon, who died last year, and his family were invited as guests of honour.

Celebrate

There was also the traditional crowning of the carnival's king and queen. Shaun James, an A-level student at Windsor High School and Sixth Form Centre, is Halesowen Carnival King. He said: "You can see from the crowds who have come how the community has come together."

"Obviously we have been lucky with the weather too."

"It is nice to come together and celebrate the Black Country and Halesowen."

Carnival Queen Grace Dunham, who met the 1957 carnival queen Joyce Knowles, added: "The festival is such a big part of the history of Halesowen. It has been really nice to be part of it."



In keeping with tradition, Halesowen's Carnival Queen Grace Dunham



Best fancy dress dog Jack with owner Chloe Chatwin



The Fizzog grannies really enjoyed their day at the revived carnival

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The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and crafted on premises at his multi-disciplined dental practice in Dudley have found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal.

Others wishing to resolve long-term denture issues have travelled from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have dislocated lives "but thankfully it has never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," says principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353.

"Prosthetics have been the butt of every

comedian's joke, but things are changing. There's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures any more and talking about them is getting easier.

"It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at our clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster and Dorridge," adds Steven.

Youthful, engaging smile

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping sunken cheeks and pinched lips."

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prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"We have often been privileged to transform looks – and lives – providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but successfully support facial structures just like real teeth."

"Can dentures ever be glamorous? Emphatically, yes," he says.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping to "drive the denture revolution forward and it's easy to add a real sense of natural-looking glamour to a clinical outcomes," he says.

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Infectious laughter, happy moments and "me" time meet Denture Clinic implant patients John and Gillian. Both were prescribed implant retained over-dentures

Solutions at a glance



Traditional dentures



Implant dentures



Suction solution

Fastidious about quality

"For the right patient it can deliver excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive procedures required for implant work, he adds."

Quality, handcrafted traditional dentures remain hugely popular. "Our on-premises manufacturing allows us to be fastidious about quality. We use only the best of materials and we have mature, skilled team of technicians that supports us."

"The possibilities with good looking, functional prosthetics still continue to surprise us," says Steven.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Good time to serve up bad news in budget?

ON Wednesday, as the nation becomes engulfed in Ashes fever, and while tennis fans watch some strange little tournament down in London, the Chancellor will deliver what is widely expected to be one of this toughest budgets to date. Maybe my years in this job have made me cynical. But wouldn't it be a splendid day to bury bad news?

TEN years ago this week, we had the radio on in the office when it was announced London would host the 2012 Olympic Games. A very bright young girl who was on work experience at the time asked if this would put Britain at risk of terrorism. "No chance, it's seven years away, the terror threat will be long over by then," was more or less what I said in reply. How stupid those words seem now.

IN his own inimitable and respectful style, armchair revolutionary Russell Brand declared that the Tunisian massacre was all David Cameron's fault, and that the minute's silence held in honour of the victims was 'complete bullsh!ne'. Only in slightly different terminology. Well Russell, my old son, what I suggest is that you choose what you consider is a more worthy cause, something dear to your heart. It can be anything, global capitalism, multinationalism, the soaring cost of burlesque outfits, whatever you like. And then observe a period of silence in recognition of it. More than a minute's silence, I suggest. Two or three years should do the trick.

ALL of two days of sunshine, and the moaners were out in force. The unions started banging on about temperatures in the workplace, the rail companies warning about bending tracks, it's amazing the schools didn't jump onto the bandwagon and say it is too hot for the kids. Two days, that's all we had before it started raining. Stop complaining and enjoy it.

OF course summer also means the festival season is upon us, where thousands of students and ageing hippies show their disdain for materialism and capitalism by paying 70 quid or more to giant multinationals to camp in a field for two days listening to bands nobody has heard of.

It looks as though they took it a bit further in Flaxley, Gloucestershire, where around 500 free-love fans attended a giant wife-swapping festival. Apparently, one or two of the neighbours were a bit perturbed, particularly one who found a gatecrasher climbing over his fence. The banners declaring 'three is the magic number' and the sex-toy trade stands raised one or two eyebrows as well.

The event was called Swingfields. I wonder how many people would have thought this was a Glenn Miller festival?



George, aged 18, seen during pilot training in the United States



The official unveiling of the plaque telling George's story



Final resting place, the young pilot's grave in Caligny

French village tribute to heroic pilot George

A community in Normandy has shown its respect at the grave of a brave pilot for 70 years, **ROBERT COX** reports

AMID the atrocities of war are stories of remarkable human kindness.

Among them is the heart-warming tale of the determination of a French community to honour an RAF pilot from Kinver, who died when his plane was shot down over their rural hamlet in Normandy.

Pilot Officer George Boucher was aged just 21 when he was shot down on August 5, 1944, crash landing near Caligny, which has a population of fewer than 1,000 people.

Among them was Claude Pailleux. He went immediately to the wreck, which had been surrounded, he later recalled, by around 100 German soldiers.

After a long process of negotiation, and at the risk of reprisal, he convinced them to let him take the body for burial.

In a 1946 letter, Claude wrote: "The plane came down in flames in a field of beetroots. The pilot however had time to jump by parachute, but without doubt too near the ground, for it had hardly opened. On the morrow - Sunday - we were able to make him a coffin of oak by a local carpenter to bury him worthily.

Liberated

"We buried him at the foot of a little shrine at the edge of a highway in the hamlet of Caligny. Around 100 people were present at the funeral at 3pm in the afternoon.

"He was buried in a shroud and a score or so of wreaths were placed there. He was therefore buried with all the respect due to his courage."

Caligny was liberated by the 11th British Armoured Division on August 16, 11 days after George was killed.

In the letter to George's parents, Claude promised them he would take care of George's grave, a promise which the Pailleux family and their community have kept ever since.

This was in keeping with the wish of George's mother that her son's remains should stay where they were buried in Caligny rather than being transferred to a military cemetery.



Heroes of the air — George Boucher, from Kinver, is pictured fourth from the left, with his fellow airmen in the RAF 174 Squadron

A close friendship has since grown between the two families. The Boucher family first visited George's grave in the 1960s and have been travelling to the area regularly since.

This culminated last month in the unveiling of a memorial plaque, telling George's story, on the wall of the chapel next to his grave.

The plaque includes details of his remarkable military career and how the insistence of a Frenchman ensured he got a dignified burial.

Nearly two years earlier, in October 1943, George had made a forced landing in northern France, in the Pas-de-Calais region, after his plane was damaged while attacking a train in occupied territory.

In a letter he explained how he was saved by the French Resistance, so he could return home to continue the war against the Nazis.

He wrote about the aftermath of that crash landing, explaining: "I ran on to a road, on which was a Frenchman in a cart. I had

learned French at school and spoke to him. He said he could not help me but told me to hide in the hedge.

"About an hour after the crash three German soldiers arrived and mounted guard over the aircraft, and I learned afterwards that two lorries loaded with soldiers went round the roads in the district."

With the help of the French Resistance, George avoided capture and survived a long and hazardous journey through France to neutral Spain, returning to England to fly again.

The plaque was paid for after the Boucher family managed to raise £1,655 in donations from family and friends. George's nephew, Mike Boucher, travelled to the unveiling ceremony with brother David and those who had helped with the appeal.

He said: "The ceremony itself was a wonderful occasion but, as I said in my address on the day, the grave has been tended ever since

George was buried in 1944. Claude Pailleux's widow is still alive. We sort of grew up with her family.

"The grave is very unusual in that it is on its own and people may get the feeling it is forgotten but it is not. It is a wonderful story associated with it."

Mr Boucher, who is the assistant headteacher at Summerhill School in Kingswinford, says his family are immensely grateful to those from the French Resistance who helped George and, of course, to the people of Caligny.

He added: "For Claude to have negotiated a burial with German soldiers in the middle of the Normandy campaign takes some doing. His sister Jacqueline later became the prime carer for the grave for 30 or 40 years. Then the mayor of Caligny gave the promise the community would always look after the grave, which has been kept by all the mayors since."

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Don't blame store for poor parking plan

A PLANNING decision taken by Dudley councillors has come up with a result. Unfortunately, the result is that Stourbridge now has a town hall, library and leisure centre marooned with totally inadequate parking.

A year or two ago, councillors decided to 're-vitalise' our town by giving permission for a nearby pay- to-park facility to be demolished and replaced by a giant Tesco store. Presumably thinking that local folks could simply leave their motors at Tesco and head off to enjoy a show in the town hall or have a jolly time at the leisure centre.

Tesco have quite reasonably reduced free parking under their newly built store to just two hours. These same councillors are now expressing their 'disappointment', huffing and puffing though there is nothing much that they can about it.

After struggling to park elsewhere, and probably annoying residents by blocking up their streets, it's inevitable that the good citizens of the Stourbridge area will give up and footfall to all three of our important civic facilities will decline. Forgetting that these facilities were built for the benefit of

the community, our elected councillors will then declare them no longer financially viable. — here's a good excuse to have a few less buildings to worry about — and closing them all down.

Before this happens, I challenge our councillors to come up with a fit-for-purpose solution to a problem of their own making. I challenge them to implement a solution that won't lead to our historic market town becoming just another fun loving 're-vitalised' charity shop centre.

G SMITH
Stourbridge

Not a Lotto point in carrying on

REGARDING the forthcoming changes to Lotto. They must think we are stupid to believe that the new changes will be for the better.

They say that the overall odds of winning a prize will be 1 in 9.3 compared to current odds of 1 in 54. I'm sorry but the new projected odds includes the free lotto ticket prize for matching 2 numbers , which really isn't a prize when you consider how difficult it will be to win a prize.

I have played Lotto since it started but feel enough is enough and will no longer participate. I also feel sorry for players who keep the same numbers every week but will be reluctant to change them to incorporate the additional 10 new numbers.

The only people who are going to benefit will be the Lotto organisers who will be paying out less in prize money because there will be fewer winners.

R EDWARDS
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Healthy enthusiasm for a euphemism

SICKNESS has been abolished, it is no more. Humankind can rejoice! And what medical breakthrough has brought about this utopian dream? It has nothing to do with medicine at all. Sickness, disease, malaise, call it what you will, has finally been defeated by certain local authorities through the machinations of middle management and human resources.

No longer are we sick or ill but merely 'absent'. We no longer feel pain, discomfort, fatigue or distress — we merely inconvenience our employers by, for no apparent reason, absenting ourselves from our place of work.

So no more need for the cumbersome, weighty and expensive NHS. The medical profession has been eclipsed by the altogether more streamlined and efficient power of the 'absence management' movement. No blood or drugs for them, nor indeed any years of pointless expensive training. No, to defeat illness and sickness one only has to call it by another name, that name being 'absence', implying both absence of illness as well as absence from the workplace. Not since Orwell abolished 'hatred' by calling it 'love' has language been so effective and, in this case, so efficacious!

A JONES
Halesowen

Heart of the problem is in France

DO the French want us to take back Calais? Legend has it that Bloody Mary, one of our favourite rulers, rallied on being told that the French had stolen the last English possession on the continent:

'Damn it! When I'm dead and opened, you will find Calais written on my heart.'

Judging by the constant chaos in that city, my bewse should offer to take it off their hands and run it in a manner not reminiscent of some Third World country.

The mayor is often seen on TV, blaming Les Roast Boeuf for creating the problem and wanting more of our cash and police, so why not go the whole way? This is me being mischievous but it's quite obvious that the level of unrest dictates that the army should be called in. This is a French problem and the French should sort it out. They want free movement of labour and boy have they got it.

A M ETHERIDGE
Sedgley

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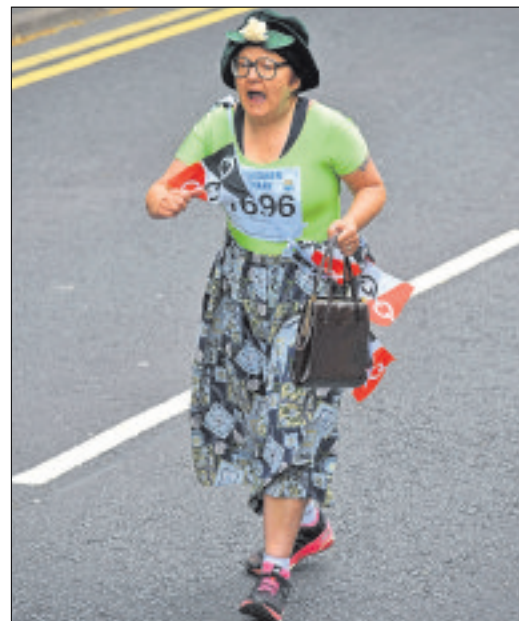
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Runners Sarah Smith, Gloria Coton, Suzanne Thompson and Michelle Bowen



Mayor and Mayoress Steve and Jayne Waltho with Dave Heeley and Sarah Norman



Fizzog granny, aka Jacky Fellows, took part in the event



Runners sign up for the popular event

Thousand on the run

MORE than 1,000 runners took to the streets of Halesowen for the annual Black Country Run as the celebrations for the Black Country Festival got under way.

The 5K and 10K races, organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, were hailed a great success.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, officially started the 10k race as hundreds of runners set off around the streets of the town.

Sarah Norman, chief executive of Dudley Council, was among those who took part in the run as was fundraising legend Blind Dave Heeley, of West Bromwich, dressed as one of the three blind mice.

Alan Bowler, organiser, said: "It was an outstanding day and we have received a wonderful response back from everyone."

"From starting the event four years ago with around 400 runners it is now fantastic to see over 1,000 people turning out for the day."

"We had participants from all over the UK take part. It's really great to be able to put on something like this that puts the town of Halesowen on the map too."

Councillor Waltho added: "It was great to see so many people out in Halesowen taking part. This is one of a number of events throughout this month as part of the Black Country Festival

and shows that the festivities have really captured people's imaginations."

This year's Black Country Festival promises to be even bigger and better with support from the community to put on a variety of entertainment across the borough.

This year's Black Country Festival promises to be even bigger and better with a variety of entertainment across the borough. The Black Country Day itself is on Tuesday, July 14. The festival's main event is in Dudley Stone Street Square on Saturday, while the OH Festival will be held at Old Hill. On Sunday events include the Women Chainmakers' Festival in Cradley Heath High Street from 11am to 6pm and Pensnett Fun Day at The Dell Stadium from 1pm to 5pm.



The Black Country Run drew over 1,000

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Jail put on hold over attack on paramedic

A MAN who kicked a paramedic who was trying to give him medical assistance in a Black Country street has escaped an immediate stint behind bars.

Aston Hamilton lashed out at a paramedic in Hope Street, West Bromwich, booting him in the shoulder as he tried to perform a pain stimuli test to check consciousness levels.

At Sandwell Magistrates Court last week, Hamilton, aged 59, was jailed for 12 weeks suspended for 12 months after he had been found guilty of assault by beating.

West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust has welcomed the sentence and said that assaults against ambulance staff are 'completely unacceptable'.

A medical team had arrived at the scene on June 10 in response to a report that an unconscious man was lying in the street.

When paramedics arrived they found Hamilton in the street and began to administer first aid. On treating him they found that he was breathing normally and not in any danger.

But when a paramedic attempted to carry out a pain

By Peter Madeley

stimuli test by squeezing Hamilton's finger, the defendant shouted at him and kicked out. One of the blows hit the victim's shoulder, resulting in him requiring medical treatment.

Police were alerted and Hamilton was arrested at the scene. As part of his conviction Hamilton, from Lozells, Birmingham, was ordered to pay £150 compensation, £350 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

Bindi Athwal, District Crown Prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service said: "Medics should be free to work without fear of being physically or verbally assaulted, especially by those individuals like Aston Hamilton whom they are trying to help."

All aboard as Europe footy trips kicking off



From left, James McGovern and Kai Rigby, co-founders of the company Football Road Trip Ltd, ready for their first trip

TWO business-minded football fans are offering lovers of the sport the chance to witness the beautiful game across Europe. Wolves fan James McGovern, aged 30, from Stourbridge and Aston Villa supporter Kai Rigby, 35, from Aston in Birmingham, are to organise road trips for fans to visit footballing stadiums across the continent.

After meeting in Manaus, Brazil, during last year's World Cup, the pair hit it off and decided they wanted to offer lovers of the sport the chance to see the sites and cities that form part of the culture around the beautiful game.

The business, called Football Road Trips, has only started this summer, with one of the first packages put together by the pair offering Wolves fans the chance to watch two games from their team's pre-season tour of France which kicked off this week. Mr Rigby said: "Me and James are definitely in this for the long haul. James is a massive Wolves fan so he is delighted we get to go and watch them as part of our first trip."

For more information visit footballroadtrips.co.uk/ or [facebook.com/footballroadtrips](https://www.facebook.com/footballroadtrips)

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Midlands needs more than JLR



DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

IF the Midlands is to be the 'engine for growth' so desired by the Chancellor, it's going to need a lot more than Jaguar Land Rover at the i54 to keep it from just ticking over.

That is not to in any way belittle the £500 million investment on the South Staffordshire/Wolverhampton border.

But it does at times appear as though it's the biggest, if not the only, show in town in an effort to show what's being done to revive the economy.

The letters JLR roll off the tongue of virtually every council leader, executive or visiting minister wanting to talk up the achievements of the West Midlands.

Worse

The growth figures, of course, suggest this region is leading the way in improvement. It just had a much worse position to start from than many other areas when it came to unemployment. Replicating the JLR success is the dream for virtually every single council across the West Midlands.

To do that, they want to embrace George Osborne's 'enterprise zones' - designated development sites which come with relaxed planning laws and tax breaks.

When it came to JLR at the i54, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire councils were able to team up and borrow the money to do the £37 million worth of slip road extension work on the M54 - a major pulling factor for a



George Osborne, on visit to Westley Plastics, Cradley Heath, with James Morris

car maker that needed good and quick access to the motorway network for its suppliers.

Now Dudley Council has its own version of the i54 in its sights - more than 200 acres of land bordering Manor Way in Halesowen and the M5 motorway. The dream is 6,000 jobs. The nightmare is the perceived threat to the green belt.

The Halesowen Abbey Trust says there is 'historic countryside that Dudley Council are seriously threatening'. Some of the Conservatives in Dudley agree with the opponents, including the Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

He accompanied the Chancellor on a pre-election visit to Westley Plastics in Cradley Heath where Mr Osborne made his vow to create apprenticeships and enterprise zones. The problem may well be that the real big money spinners will want a blank canvas, and a massive one at that, to bring their new high end manufactur-

ing sites to. The solution would be to split up the enterprise zone perks and spread them across multiple brownfield, derelict, former industrial sites which the Black Country has in abundance.

No word yet from the Chancellor on the impending closure of Goodyear in Wolverhampton after nearly 90 years on the site.

That's odd, given how George Osborne is so keen on the Midlands as an 'engine'. What about the tyres?

The parallels between now and the late 1920s are striking.

Back then, towns all over Britain were competing to get the tyre maker in. Wolverhampton won. Fast forward to today and enterprise zones are all about attractive incentives. Getting JLR was a fantastic coup. But the sad decline of Goodyear, where my grandfather worked shows the danger of putting all our eggs in one basket.

Picture



Recycle, Match & Win

Item of the week



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Chef Raymond Blanc at the pair's stand at this year's Chelsea Flower Show



Other famous visitors included Brendan Cole and wife Zoe Hobbs, with Vicki



BBC Breakfast's weather girl Carol Kirkwood, admiring the show stand



Vicki Newman and Stan Griffin of West Bromwich who grow cacti



One of the more colourful cacti

Strictly prickly plants

A GREEN-FIGURED duo have continued their remarkable run of success after winning yet another gold medal for their stunning cacti.

Business partners Stan Griffin and Vicki Newman only set up their West Bromwich firm Craig House Cacti in 2007 but have since enjoyed near constant success.

In May they won their seventh consecutive RHS Chelsea Flower Show gold medal and more recently they won gold at the RHS Hampton

Court Flower Show. Mr Griffin, aged 67, estimated Craig House Cacti has now won around 80 consecutive gold medals since its unbeaten run started in July 2009.

And naturally it is the Chelsea medals he said that have been most satisfying.

He said: "The Chelsea flower show is the crème de la crème of flower shows. There is no finer show in the world so you have got to think getting the gold medal seven years in a row is quite the achievement. It is an ongoing process where we just try and up the standard with the plants for the display all year round."

When appearing at Chelsea the prickly plants tend to attract a lot of attention from celebrities. This year big names who stopped for a photograph included Strictly Come Dancing star Brendan Cole and his wife Zoe.

Mr Griffin added: "The celebrities take an interest. It is nice to be appreciated that way."

The duo has also been celebrating the heat-wave which had hit the nation this week. "To be honest our plants absolutely love the heat like this," explained Mr Griffin. "The flowers pop open like nobody's business while everyone else is watering like mad."



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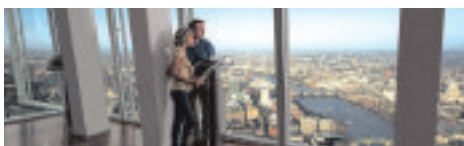


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Lay ministers licensed by the Bishop of Dudley



With the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, are lay ministers Kim Topham, Maureen Hughes, Melissa Rose, Jacqui Green, Quarry Bank's Val Houghton, Geoff Westwood and Pedmore's Mary German

NEW lay ministers have been licensed to preach in a ceremony conducted by the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher.

Seven from Dudley, Sandwell and Worcestershire were admitted to the office of reader at Worcester Cathedral.

Readers are trained and licensed lay ministers in the Church of England authorised for preaching and teaching.

They undergo a two year training course before being admitted to the

role, after which they carry out a wide range of tasks within their parishes and beyond, especially helping others to reflect on their faith and how it relates to their daily lives.

Mary German was licensed for the parish of St Peter's Church, Pedmore, Stourbridge. She said: "It has been a marvellous experience to work with those training for ordination in the Church of England as well as Christians of other denominations. The work has been rigorous but very enjoyable."

Val Houghton from the Brierley Hill Team Ministry at Christ Church,

Quarry Bank, was also licensed. She said: "The training course has been challenging but rewarding."

Melissa Rose from Holy Trinity, Old Hill, has also become a lay minister. She said: "I'm now looking forward to serving our churches and my community with a renewed spirit and informed mind."

Licensed lay ministers, also known as readers, are part of an accredited public ministry of the Church of England. It is a voluntary, unpaid ministry with approximately 10,000 licensed lay ministers nationally and around 130 in Diocese of Worcester.

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Keys handed over for animal hospital



Senior vet Ian Fleming and head nurse Lisa Williams with the keys to the new PDSA hospital in Oldbury

THE keys have been handed over as the finishing touches are made to a £2 million veterinary hospital in Oldbury. Building work is complete on the new PDSA Pet Hospital, in Wolverhampton Road, to replace its base in Quinton.

The hospital will house operating theatres, a critical care ward and the latest diagnostic and surgical equipment.

More than £1m has been raised to pay for the hospital, to be called The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence after a heart surgeon and a cardiologist, both animal lovers, who made a significant donation.

Charity officials are now making a final plea for support to secure the remain just under £300,000 needed to fit out the new hospital. It is hoped that the hospital would open in the coming weeks.

PDSA's team of vets and nurses in Quinton provide more than 90,000 treatments a year. The new hospital will allow staff to increase these numbers by around 25 per cent to provide more than 112,000 treatments annually. Anyone wishing to help PDSA can do so by texting 'build' to 70099 to donate £2, or text 'build' to 70800 to donate £5.

Scheme is submitted for Albion supporters

A BIG screen, stage and food stalls will all feature in the new fan zone being planned by West Bromwich Albion.

Proposals have now been submitted for the supporters' area at The Hawthorns pub, opposite the ground in Halfords Lane. The closed Grade II-listed pub, will be the centrepiece of the fan zone.

It is hoped the move will improve the matchday experience for fans.

Bosses want to bring the pub back into use as part of the scheme and restoration works are already under way. The fan zone would feature temporary pop-up facilities that would be dismantled after matches.

A match day car park would also be created at the site of the Classic Drinks premises off Birmingham Road. Officials say the area would create 'pre-match family orientated entertainment' before each of the club's home games.

A stage would be erected as a focus for activities during the warm-up to games.

Canopies will feature in the area to give shade and shelter fans in all weathers on matchdays.

Mobile catering vans

By Andrew Turton

would be bought onto the site to sell food and refreshments to fans.

There is also plans to have an area for a sponsors' hospitality unit and a club shop stand to sell official merchandise. Toilets would also be built.

A planning statement, submitted with the application, said: "It is not anticipated that the supporters' entertainment area will increase the number of people congregating around the football ground on match days. It will however assist in the management of people movement into and around the football ground."

Approval was granted last year to knock down the Grade II-listed pub's 'west wing' to make way for the fan zone.

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How cool are we? The band pose with an American-style gas guzzler in the 1980s



Bernie Marsden jams with the Red Lemons



Neil Bullock, Dave Green, Bob Pountney, Dave Crowley, Paul Roberts, Iain Willets, Jim Merris and Suzi Perry

Hold on, they're coming back as blues band tune up for 30 year reunion gig

IMAGINE being in a band with your best friends, playing some of the country's best known venues with rock legends like Chuck Berry and Robert Plant.

For members of The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band it will soon be time to reminisce as they mark their 30th anniversary by getting the band back together for a special gig.

Future motorsport television presenter Suzi Perry would appear as a dancer to stage with The Red Lemons, who her father used to manage.

Radio and TV presenter, and Baggies fan, Adrian Chiles even featured as bass player in an early line up of the group.

Now they are preparing for a home town gig for fans at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 11 in a one-off show.

Frontman and group founder Jim Merris, now 51, said: "It is like a family. We had such a good time and we were good friends. It is going to be a brilliant night."

The group were formed in 1985 after Jim

MEMORY LANE

Report by Adam Burling

was inspired by hit film The Blues Brothers starring Dan Ackroyd and John Belushi, which featured lots of straight-faced humour, car chases and music from a host of soul, blues and jazz stars.

"I was given a copy of the film by a friend and watched it four times in a row," said Jim. He bought a Pontiac Parisienne car for £200 to have a big American-style car like those in the movies and determined to sing and play harmonica in a blues band.

He was able to secure a slot at The Broadway pub, in Norton, Stourbridge, and set about starting up a group featuring guitarist Iain Willets, pianist Dave Crowley, Neil Sprayson and a young Adrian Chiles on bass.

"It was phenomenal. People absolutely loved it," said Jim, who had met Adrian from Hagley at gigs in and around the Black Country. After just a handful of gigs,

Adrian and Neil left the group for university. Drummer Neil Bullock, who is now one of the country's top drummers, bass player Dave Green and Bob Pountney, who played trumpet, joined the group, and a few months later so did trombone player Paul Roberts — and he is travelling back from his home in Australia for the reunion. Sue Clarke sang with the group.

The Broadway, JB's in Dudley and now demolished Stewponey roadhouse pub at Stourton were among their regular venues.

After a couple of years they took on manager, Tony Perry. He had co-run the PMA agency based in Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, and had been a director of the Lafayette club in Wolverhampton as well as managing the band Trapeze, whose members went on to join Deep Purple, Black Sabbath and Whitesnake.

They went on to find fame outside the Midlands, even outside the UK, by performing at jazz and blues festivals. They played at the Royal Albert Hall with reggae star Desmond Dekker. In 1991 the

band was invited by Chuck Berry to be 'special guests' on his UK tour. The band also played on the same bill as Robert Plant and Whitesnake's Bernie Marsden even guested with the band in Birmingham.

Father-of-two from Quarry Bank Jim is still gigging, with Big Jim's Boogie Band, but he says their best gigs were at Stourbridge Town Hall. "They were electric nights, jam-packed and there was always great banter," he said.

Latterly bassist Paul Turner performed with the group and now tours with Jamiroquai, while saxophonist Rob Hughes has performed with ABC.

The gig in September will also mark a moment to remember band member Dave Crowley who died 21 years ago in a mountaineering accident on Snowdon.

The concert at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 11 is a 30-year reunion and former manager Tony, of Finchfield, said: "It should be a great night, it is like them coming home." Tickets are available online at Midland Box Office or call 0870 320 7000.



Jim Merris, founder of The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band

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Craig Charles on
festival line-up
Page 21



Bette Midler

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OTHER EVENTS

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Believe the hype, it's Public Enemy



Rebels without a pause — New York's Public Enemy top the bill in Birmingham as Moseley Park gets funky

LEGENDS of hip-hop Public Enemy are top of the bill for the first night of the Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival in Birmingham this weekend.

The New York outfit, founded by and still featuring Chuck D and Flavor Flav, will be the main attraction tomorrow night as Moseley Park celebrates all things funky for three days.

Public Enemy, — replacing The Sugarhill Gang as Friday's main act — changed the sound of hip-hop and

rap during the 1980s with albums that yielded such tracks as Fight The Power and Don't Believe the Hype.

The acts on Saturday include Caribbean funk band Cymande, Red Dwarf and Coronation Street actor turned Radio 6 superstar DJ Craig Charles and jazz vibraphone master Roy Ayers. The main attraction on Sunday is jazz-hat wearing singer Gregory Porter on a bill that also features The James Hunter Six and

Latin grooves from ten-piece band Baila La Cumbia

For each day's full line-up see the mostlyjazz.co.uk website. Tickets for Saturday have sold out.

Meanwhile, there will be opportunities to see Public Enemy again when they play the Barclaycard Arena as support for The Prodigy on December 3, and Gregory Porter when he ends his UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 24 next year.



'The music business is so treacherous'

Divine Miss M at arena

AFTER a 35-year absence from the UK stage, multi award-winning singer Bette Midler is back in Blighty.

The star of stage and screen will take to Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena tonight (Thursday) as part of her Divine Intervention tour.

Since releasing her first album The Divine Miss M in 1972, which won her first Grammy, Midler has become a global star as an actress, singer and comedienne. Last year she returned with hit album It's The Girls!, a tribute to girl groups from the 1930s to the modern era.

But achieving success has not been an easy ride for the ambitious performer who left a factory job in Hawaii for the mean streets of New York as a teenager in the late '60s. She got a couple of roles on Broadway before developing her outrageous cabaret act on the city's gay scene, where her musical director was a then unknown pianist named Barry Manilow. "I started off as a girl wanting to be an actress but I was not the obvious choice so I focused on singing," she says. Just as well, as the star of The Rose in 1979 went on to sell more than 15 million records worldwide. But the 69-year-old says she is glad she is not starting out in the business now.

"I would not even want to hazard it," she explains. "The music business is so treacherous and crowded. There are people who can barely sing but that doesn't stop them."

She added: "I discovered people in this business will hurt you. A lot of people cannot stand a woman with power and it was left for me to learn that you have to stand on your own two feet."

Shalamar aiming to make you feel good

ONE of the top R&B bands of the 1970s and '80s, Shalamar, are performing at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday.

The trio was created for US TV show Soul Train and had hits with Take That to the Bank, A Night to Remember, I Can Make You Feel Good and There It Is. Jody Watley left in '83 and Carolyn Griffey has sung with them since 2003. The other two members are singer and dancer Jeffrey Daniel and Howard Hewett.

Former Spin Doctors frontman Chris Barron will join New York's punk/anti-folk poet Lach at the Robin on Monday, while Grammy Award winner Mary Chapin Carpenter is at Birmingham's Town Hall on Wednesday.

Spotlight on youth music and dance

MORE than 8,000 young musicians are taking part in Music for Youth's week-long festival at Birmingham venues Symphony Hall, Town Hall and the Adrian Boulton Hall, with free pop-up performances around the city.

It includes a jazz concert to-morrow night hosted by Birmingham's Soweto Kinch at the Town Hall.

Meanwhile, DanceXchange showcase work by their young dancers at their base in Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday at 5.30pm. On July 16 at 7.30pm young dancers are joined by professionals to show talent in Dynamic Youth at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

Legend will make a Beautiful Noise

THESE are Diamond days at the Genting Arena, Birmingham, with rock and pop legend Neil Diamond in concert at the NEC venue this Saturday (sold out) and next, July 11 and 18.

The Grammy Award winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member has sold more than 125 million records worldwide since his career as a performer began in 1966. The 74-year-old New Yorker has an awesome back catalogue with songs such as Sweet Caroline, Cracklin' Rosie, Forever In Blue Jeans and Beautiful Noise. Last year he released his 32nd studio album Melody Road. Tickets start at £73.83.

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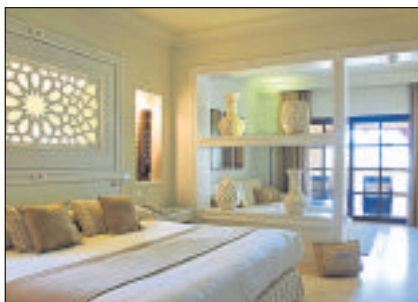
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A room with the view at the accommodation

Time for Bedouin after enjoying taste of heaven

NO postcard, picture or poster does them justice.

Gigantic stone monuments more than 3,000 years old, each with beautifully carved artwork portraying ancient kings and mysterious gods, with the bright colours still visible today.

Three main temples created over a 1,300 year period by powerful pharaohs with enormous brick walls covered with propaganda. Surrounded by stone sphinx, statues to the kings and obelisks, the Temple of Karnak in Luxor, Egypt, is the largest temple complex ever built.

The Valley of the Kings once boasted 5,000 visitors a day. Today it struggles to reach 1,000 – but footfall is increasing with stability in this proud country.

Venturing into Egypt can feel like entering an untouched paradise. When strolling

Egypt - by Alex Ross

past the ticket inspector at the entrance to King Ramesses II's tomb, I'm told the queues used to snake around the entrance at the height of tourism.

My trip with Red Sea Holidays started from Birmingham International Airport. Five hours is all it took to get into the newly-built terminal at Hurghada Airport.

My accommodation was the 280-room five-star Makadi Spa Hotel. Within the complex there were five restaurants plus two international buffets. Bars surrounded each swimming pool at the hotel, which also had its own private beach just a two-minute walk away.

But I wasn't just there to relax as an adrenaline-fuelled quad biking excursion in the desert followed the next day, travelling for about 20 minutes before stopping off

to visit a camp of desert natives called the Bedouin. They live in their own community away from the rest of Egypt and once one person leaves he can never come back. However, they allow visitors to the camp, invite them in to look at a wide array of spiders, scorpions and snakes in an animal centre, and give them bumpy camel rides.

Vibrant

After lunch at an international restaurant and dinner at the hotel's steak diner, we trekked out to the port area of Hurghada. It had a vibrant feel about it and we ended up in Friends bar for some drinks and a smoke of shisha.

I set off the following day on a snorkelling trip. But as the sun came down, I headed for Orange Bay – an unbelievable sight of long white beaches with a shallow bay which stretched out for more than 200

metres. The afternoon flew by before we returned for the best meal of the trip – a Lebanese restaurant called Tarbush at the neighbouring Grand Makadi Hotel and watched the night go by with traditional Egyptian dancers.

The next morning I visited Karnak Temple and the Valley of the Kings and later joined the five-star MS Grand Rose a cruise boat on the River Nile in Esna, which set off on a three-hour cruise, while I sipped cocktails and relaxed on top deck.

The evening was finished off with a meal in the ship's own restaurant, followed by more drinks on the top deck and a luxury overnight stay in a cabin.

Back at base, I slipped into the swimming pool at the neighbouring Sunwing Hotel's waterpark and even tried some of the water slides. When I returned, flying back to London Gatwick, knowing I had tasted heaven.

star★extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

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Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

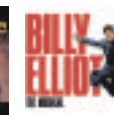
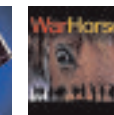
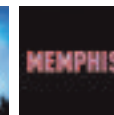
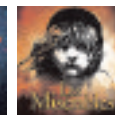
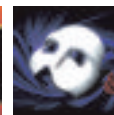
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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CHOICE



Casualty
(BBC1, 8.55pm)
Ethan (George Rainsford) is caught up in a complex murder case when he falls for an enchanting woman called Bonnie (Renee Castle), who brings nothing but trouble. This special episode, written by Mark Catley, sees Hanssen (Guy Henry) give his team in the Emergency Department a pep-talk during a night shift, ahead of a dramatic evening. Iain (Michael Stevenson) and Dixie (Jane Hazlegrove) find a distraught Bonnie in a tattoo parlour with her boyfriend Clyde (Stuart Manning) bleeding on the floor, and though she claims her lover left a suicide note, Ethan is suspicious that she is the one who pulled the trigger.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Wimbledon 2015. The ladies' singles final. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities. Writers including Charlie Higson, Gill Hornby and Stuart Maconie take part in the general knowledge quiz. (R) **6.45** BBC News. **6.55** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Prized Apart.** The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg – without using a measuring aid. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. **8.00** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series. **8.55** **Casualty.** Ethan falls for an enchanting woman during a complex murder case, but becomes suspicious when she is found in a tattoo parlour with her boyfriend Clyde bleeding on the floor. **9.45** **The John Bishop Show.** The comedian introduces routines by comics Seann Walsh, Doc Brown and Jamali Maddix, plus music by Jack Savoretti and Texas, and international cabaret star Meow Meow. **10.30** BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50** **Not Going Out.** Lee's dad Frank moves in after an argument with his latest fancy woman, but it becomes clear he is drinking too much, so the flatmates try to persuade him to seek professional help. (R) **11.20** **Would I Lie to You?** Rob Brydon hosts the panel show, in which captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Dara O Brain, Denise Van Outen, Rhod Gilbert and Vernon Kay. (R) **11.50** **Film: The 13th Warrior.** (1999) An Arabic nobleman joins forces with Norse warriors to fight shadowy fiends at the end of the first millennium. Action adventure, starring Antonio Banderas and Diane Venora. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.55 **Film:** Private's Progress. (1956) Comedy, starring Ian Carmichael. **8.30** Wimbledon Classics. **10.30** European Games Highlights. **11.00** Athletics. **12.00** The Box. (R) **12.30** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.30** Christopher Lee: Talking Pictures. **2.05** **Film:** The Mummy. (1959) Hammer horror, starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.25** Edwardian Farm. (R) **5.25** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.55** Wimbledon 2015. The men's and ladies' doubles finals. **8.00** **Wimbledon 2Day.** Clare Balding is joined by former players and celebrity fans to look back at today's ladies' singles final at the All England Club. Plus, highlights of the men's and ladies' doubles finals and a preview of tomorrow's showpiece match in the men's singles. **9.00** **Mock the Week.** Ed Byrne, Josh Widdicombe, Milton Jones, Zoe Lyons and Matt Forde join regulars Dara O Brain and Hugh Dennis to give their irreverent takes on the biggest stories to hit the headlines, through stand-up spots and improvised games. (R) **9.30** **The Battle of Britain.** Actor Ewan McGregor and his brother Colin, an RAF pilot, retell the story of the 1940 air battle that proved to be a turning point in the Second World War. The pair get hands-on experience of flying period fighter aircraft across the skies of England, giving Colin an opportunity to contrast his training in modern combat techniques with the skills required to master the Spitfire's less sophisticated technology. The duo also meet some of those who participated in the conflict itself. (R) **11.00** **QI XL.** Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the comedy quiz, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble, David Mitchell and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of knits and knots. (R) **11.45** **Golf: Scottish Open.** Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of day three from Gullane Golf Club. Eventual winner Justin Rose and home favourite Marc Warren were the star performers on this day in 2014. **12.45** **Film: Dracula.** (1958) Hammer horror, starring Christopher Lee. **2.05** **Film:** The Curse of Frankenstein. (1957) **3.25** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.30** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.15** Tipping Point. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R) **7.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1.** (2010) The dark lord Voldemort rises to ultimate power over the magical world, so the teenage wizard and his friends set out on a mission to find the magical horcruxes – artefacts containing parts of the evil wizard's soul that hold the key to destroying him. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Ralph Fiennes. **9.45** **Black Work.** Jo is left reeling as the secrets she has uncovered prove devastating for her family. She decides to abandon her investigation into Ryan's death out of fear she is endangering her children. However, when another body is discovered, she realises that her husband's murderer is still at large, and it is up to her to see that he is brought to justice. But as she takes up the case again, she does not realise that the killer could be terrifyingly close to home. Conclusion of the three-part crime drama, starring Sheridan Smith. Last in the series. (R) **10.45** **ITV News;** Weather. **11.00** **Film: State of Play.** (2009) A journalist investigates a connection between two seemingly unrelated deaths and uncovers a political conspiracy. Thriller, starring Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck and Helen Mirren. **1.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.50** **ITV** Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. Farm-estate manager Chris hosts the fourth evening in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset and plans an African-themed menu, including savoury doughnuts. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** Businesswoman Tracy hosts the final dinner party in Weston-super-Mare. Her evening includes dance lessons, a black-tie dress code, and steak cooked to order. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson traces the childhoods of the Bronte siblings on a four-day trek through West Yorkshire, exploring the harsh reality of life in the 1820s for the literary family. (R) **8.00** **The Secret World of Lego.** Documentary going behind the scenes at the toy company, following a design student as he seeks a coveted position with the company and two fans hatching money-making schemes. (R) **9.00** **Film: Ted.** (2012) A lonely boy makes a wish at Christmas that his teddy bear will come to life, which is magically granted. The boy grows up to become a directionless slacker, with the foul-mouthed living toy still his inseparable friend – but his girlfriend thinks it is time for him to grow up. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis, directed by and featuring the voice of Seth MacFarlane. **11.05** **Film: Hot Tub Time Machine.** (2010) Three unhappy friends travel back in time to their youth in 1986 and are tempted to give themselves the lives they always wanted. Sci-fi comedy, starring John Cusack and Clark Duke. **1.00** The Last Leg. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** The Renovation Game. (R) **5.00** Secret Eaters. (R) **5.55** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.40** **Film:** Away All Boats. (1956) Second World War drama, starring Jeff Chandler. **2.55** **Film:** To Hell and Back. (1955) Second World War biopic, starring Audie Murphy as himself. **5.00** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Stavros and Emily try to get their house back from squatters, while Margaret attempts to recover the £20,000 she is owed from a letting agent. (R) **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Sheriff Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil Ruddock to a kennel owner, before being forced to evict a school dinner lady in south London. (R) **7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the First Ashes Test at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff. Mark Nicholas presents, and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. **8.00** **Transporter: The Series.** New series. Action drama focusing on the exploits of Frank Martin, a "transporter" paid to pick up and deliver people or cargo from anywhere in the world. Chris Vance stars. **8.55** **Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** People living on state welfare in seaside towns in the south of England, including an English Defence League supporter in Margate and a single mum in Hastings. (R) **9.50** **Big Brother.** Another chance to see last night's eviction, revealing how the departure of the unlucky housemate has affected the others. **10.50** **My Daughter Stole My Husband.** More stories of infidelity and betrayal, including a woman who was left in shock when her second husband set up home with her son's wife. (R) **11.50** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. **8.00** Jessie J & George Ezra @ **9.00** The Script & the Vaccines @ **1.00** Avici & the Libertines @ **12.00** Family Guy **1.45** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **2.45** Bad Boy Boxer: The Last Chance **3.45** In Deep **BBC Four**
7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **8.00** Timeshift: Magnificent Machines – The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **1.55** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **2.55** Pompeii: The Mystery of the People Frozen in Time **ITV2**
11.25 Catchphrase Celebrity Special **12.25** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **2.10** The Hot Desk: Nick Jonas **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.25** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.50** **Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **6.45** **Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** **Film:** Scary Movie V (2013) **11.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.15** Crazy Beaches **12.45** Love Island **1.45** Fake Reaction **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.50 A Touch of Frost **2.50** Lewis **4.55** **Film:** Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.35** Man About the House **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.00 Goodwood Supercars **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** Tour de France Live. **4.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights **5.30** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** **Film:** Never Say Almight (1983) **10.45** **Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **12.50** The Cycle Show **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.35** Duck Dynasty **2.55** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** **Film:** Penelope (2006) **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Fast & Furious 5 (2011) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.45** Rude Tube: Superstars of the Web **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Jane the Virgin **4.15** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Doctor at Large (1957) **1.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **3.20** The Parent Trap (1998) **6.05** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011) **11.15** Stake Land (2010) **1.15** Sanjuro (1962)

NEWS



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CHOICE



Joanna Lumley

Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure (TV, 9pm)
New series. The actress embarks on her third travelogue, having previously traced the Nile from its source and sampled the varied cultures of Greece. This time, she sets out to travel 6,400 miles making use of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which is considered the longest railway line in the world. Joanna's journey begins in Hong Kong, where she spent some of her childhood. She takes a bullet train to Beijing, where she meets a woman who claims to have known the last Chinese emperor's favourite concubine. From there, she travels to the Great Wall, and takes an overnight train into Mongolia via the Gobi desert.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** BBC News: Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** Wimbledon 2015. A look ahead to this afternoon's men's singles final. **1.50** Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the men's singles final at the All England Club, where the successor to Novak Djokovic is set to be decided.
6.00 David Attenborough Meets President Obama. The renowned documentary is interviewed by the US President about the future of the planet, their shared passion for nature, and potential ways to protect the environment. (R)
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker follows a pilgrimage trail set up in Derbyshire to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Plague, and Anita Rani investigates the Bakewell tradition of well-dressing. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Fake or Fortune? Nicky Phillips asks Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould to help resolve prolonged debate over whether a painting housed at Picton Castle, her family's ancestral home, is a genuine Renoir.
9.00 The Outcast. Sadie Jones' two-part adaptation of her own best-selling novel of the same name. In the years following the end of the Second World War, 10-year-old Lewis's idyllic childhood is shattered after he witnesses a tragic accident, and the incident sets his life on a drastic new course. Coming of age drama, set in the 1950s, starring George Mackay, Greg Wise, Hattie Morahan and Jessica Brown Findlay.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 Regional Programme.
11.00 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican introduces routines by comedians Steve Hughes and Russell Kane at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)
11.45 Don't Tell the Bride. Children's entertainer Mark wants to stage a theatrical wedding on a cruise ship for his bride-to-be Kelly, but she is hoping for a traditional event for her big day. (R)
12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** The Box. (R) **11.00** Wimbledon Classics. **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.45** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.30** Frieze Apart. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.20** Songs of Praise. (R) **5.00** Mountain Lions – Big Cats in High Places: Natural History. Documentary following two mountain lion families in Wyoming. (R)
6.00 Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the mixed doubles final, the last action of this year's event at the All England Club. Today's competitors will be hoping to emulate the Australian-Serbian duo of Samantha Stosur and Nenad Zimonjic, who won the title in 2014 with a straight-sets victory over Max Mirnyi and Chan Hao-ching.
8.15 Dragons' Den. New series. The business contest returns, with new Dragons Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins joining Den veterans Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones on the panel.
9.15 Odyssey. Odelle is confronted by Frank Majors after she flees from Omar's guards, while Bob reveals he has new information about the murder-suspect.
10.00 Family Guy. Peter helps Joe to publish a book, but things get out of hand when he starts to take on the writing as well. Elsewhere, Brian begins an exercise regime.
10.20 Family Guy. Meg accidentally spills her lunch on an unstable new pupil nicknamed "Mental Mike", and must escape his plans to fight her. Meanwhile, Peter harasses Brian. (R)
10.40 Wimbledon 2015. Clare Balding is joined by celebrities and former players to assess the concluding day's play at the All England Club, focusing their attentions on the men's singles final.
11.40 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of the fourth and final day from Gullane Golf Club. Justin Rose clinched the title last year following an impressive final round of 65.
12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.40** Holy City. (R) **2.40** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.35** Film: Overboard. (1987) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.55 ITV News: Weather.
7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clips, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby sets out to reward another selection of public heroes by making their dreams come true. This time, she arranges a surprise fit for a princess for 12-year-old Poppy Guilder, who survived a prolonged battle with an aggressive brain tumour. She also enlists the help of the cast of ITV's Benidorm to reunite 52-year-old Maureen Turtton with her best friend Susan, who relocated to Canada with her family when she and Maureen were only 12 years old.
9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure. New series. The actress travels the length of the Trans-Siberian Railway, taking in Hong Kong, Beijing, the Great Wall and the Gobi desert in the first leg of her trek.
10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Arriving at a cave system, the contestants use their rope skills to navigate the tight spaces and waterfall descents in search of their dinner: a special guest captain joined by celebrity guests. (R)
11.15 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Karen Brady. The businesswoman and star of The Apprentice talks about battling sexism as MD of Birmingham City FC and how a brain aneurysm made her take stock of her life. (R)
12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.40** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Night Show. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Russell. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. (R)
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12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.40** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Night Show. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.50** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Dora and Friends. **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. **10.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35** Film: Every Which Way But Loose. (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. **3.45** Film: Dracula: Dead and Loving It. (1995) Horror spoof, starring Leslie Nielsen. **5.35** Film: Oliver & Company. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Joey Lawrence.
6.55 5 News Weekend.
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final day's play in the First Ashes Test at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff. Mark Nicholas presents, and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.
8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Winnie Jones. New series. The actor introduces clips of exciting police chases, as elite pursuit units crack down on law-breakers on the highways and byways of Britain. Previously broadcast on Spike.
9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights as the remaining housemates start their final week under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother.
10.00 Film: Harry Brown. (2009) An elderly retired marine takes the law into his own hands when his friend is murdered by hoodlums on a London estate. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. Edited for length.
11.50 Burglars & Break-Ins: Caught on Camera. Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces to reveal how CCTV is being used to fight crime, taking a look at how some residents are taking neighbourhood watch to the next level. (R)
12.45 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. **8.00** Paloma Faith & James Bay @ T. **9.00** Clean Bandit & Jamie T @ T. **10.00** Noel Gallagher & The Prodigy @ T. **11.30** Family Guy. **1.25** American Idol. **12.40** Family Guy. **1.25** Insane Fight Club II. **2.25** Bad Boy Bover. The Last Chance. **3.25** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth.
BBC Four
7.00 Les Mis at St. Matt: Lucas Dreams the Dream. **8.00** Connie Fisher: I'll Sing Once More. **9.00** Pappano's Classical Voices: Mezzo-Soprano. **10.00** One Night in Manchester. **11.00** Kings of 70s Romance. **12.00** Chis: That's Alright Mama. **60** Years On. **1.00** Connie Fisher: I'll Sing Once More. **2.00** Rock 'n' Roll America. **3.00** Chuck Berry in Concert.
ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out. **12.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip. **1.30** Love Island. **2.35** Film: The Flintstones (1994). **4.20** Film: Peter Pan (2003). **6.30** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997). **9.00** Love Island. **10.00** Film: License to Wed (2007). **11.55** Fake Reaction. **12.40** Love Island. **1.40** Totally Bonkers. Guinness World Records. **2.10** Teleshopping. **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen.
ITV3
11.30 Film: Columbus: Negative Reaction (1974). **1.35** A Touch of Frost. **3.45** Film: Swallows and Amazons (1974). **5.35** By Royal Appointment. **6.45** Wycliffe. **8.00** Inspector Morse. **10.10** Film: Death Becomes Her (1992). **12.20** Blue Murder. **1.45** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. **2.30** Wycliffe. **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen. **3.40** Emmerdale.
ITV4
12.00 The Cycle Show. **1.00** Tour de France Highlights. **2.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the ninth stage. **4.30** Pann Stars. **5.30** Storage Wars: New York. **6.00** Counting Cars. **7.00** Tour de France Highlights. **8.00** Goodwood Supercars. **9.00** Film: Unforgiven (1992). **11.40** Film: Dirty Harry (1971). **1.50** Tour de France Highlights. **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping.
E4
12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me. **2.00** Film: The Net (1995). **4.20** Rude(ish). Tube Shorts. **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. **6.00** Film: Black Knight (2001). **8.00** The Big Bang Theory – E4's Top 20. **10.30** Gogglebox. **12.35** Tattoo Fixers. **1.40** Tattoos After Dark. **2.35** My Mad Fat Diary. **3.30** Hollyoaks.
Film4
11.00 Guadacanal Diary (1943). **1.00** The Dark Crystal (1982). **2.50** Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009). **4.35** Step Up (2006). **6.40** School of Rock (2003). **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012). **11.15** Sleepy Hollow (1999). **1.25** Spring in a Small Town (1948).

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Things We Lost in the Fire, BBC1, 11.50pm
Devoted family man Brian tries to support his heroin-addicted friend Jerry, who has lost everything through his drug habit. When Brian is unexpectedly killed, his devastated widow Audrey invites Jerry to live with her and her children. Drama, starring Halle Berry, Benicio Del Toro and David Duchovny. (2007)

TUESDAY
The Greatest, BBC1, 11.45pm
A grieving mother becomes obsessed with her dead son's last moments, while her unfaithful husband struggles to comfort her and their surviving son feels he can never live up to his brother's reputation. Drama, starring Pierce Brosnan, Susan Sarandon and Carey Mulligan. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
Amour, Channel 4, 1.20am
An elderly retired music teacher suffers a stroke, which begins a process of physical and mental deterioration. Oscar-winning drama, starring Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva and Isabelle Huppert. In French and English. (2012)



THURSDAY
Secrets of Eden, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A small community is shocked when a local man murders his wife, then kills himself. A detective uncovers evidence of an affair between the dead woman and the town's pastor and begins to suspect he may be implicated in the tragedy. To learn the truth, she must gain the trust of the couple's troubled teenage daughter. Drama, starring John Stamos and Anna Gunn. (2012)

FRIDAY
Gladiator, ITV, 10.40pm
Roman general Maximus Decimus Meridius is a casualty of a power struggle between the corrupt Emperor Commodus and the senate. Ordered to be put to death along with his family, he escapes but is sold into slavery as a gladiator – but uses his fame in the arena to fight against the tyrant. Oscar-winning period epic, with Russell Crowe. (2000)

Inside the incredible world of identical twins

We always agree, don't we? We've got the same ideas. We often have the same dreams. We always have the same thoughts. It's like talking to the same person. It's like we're one brain.

That's the thoughts of Christie and Louise Miller, and probably sums up what most people think being a twin is like – that shared experience and, possibly, a kind of psychic connection.

For those of us whose siblings were born years apart just don't understand what nine months of sharing a womb can mean. We may be boring and mundane, but at least nobody knows what we're thinking 24/7 – because that would be a bad thing, right?

Not according to those featured in this fascinating documentary, which introduces viewers to a variety of twins from different backgrounds who have extraordinary stories to tell.

Among them is Anais Bordier, who grew up in Paris after being adopted by a French couple, but discovered she had a twin sister living in Los Angeles after seeing footage of her online.

"I assumed someone had just posted a video of me online," she says. "When I watched it, I realised it wasn't me, but I was like, 'who's that?'"

It was, in fact, Samantha Futimar, an actress who had appeared in *Memoirs of a Geisha*. The girls shared the same birthday and had been born in South Korea. They eventually met in London.

"I think we spent five minutes looking at our teeth, and our nose and our eyebrows and hands," smiles Anais. "Getting our DNA results was the last stitch in the pillow. Knowing that everything we'd hoped for, and already knew, was actually true."

Brenda and Bonnie Bowers were identical twin girls who grew up together in America's mid-west.

"All our activities were together and people looked at us as a unit," reveals Brenda, who is seven minutes younger than her sibling. "We did have the same tastes. If I didn't like something, I'm positive Bonnie didn't like it either. I always knew where she stood, what she was thinking and feeling."

Despite that close bond, Brenda was stunned when Bonnie initially came out as a lesbian, then opted for gender reassignment. They now claim the choice made by Bonnie – who renamed himself Aiden – has, in fact, brought them even closer together.

"We grabbed on for dear life, to go through this together. It made me hold on even more to the idea that we're twins. I can easily say it's just a name change. There's that core connection that can't be broken."

Other siblings featured here include Malcolm and Andrew. Now toddlers, their bond proved useful when Andrew alerted his parents to the fact that Malcolm was struggling to breathe.

Tim and James Brown from Liverpool both suffered kidney problems as toddlers, but only James recovered fully.

Luckily, Tim had a ready-made kidney donor available, thanks to his brother James, when he desperately needed a transplant.

The differences between twins may be small, but it is not unusual for twins to react differently to illness.



Tim and James Brown in *Secret Life of Twins*, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen: Cracking China, BBC2, 9pm
With his topshy dress sense and even more flamboyant taste in interior decoration, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen was arguably the break-out star of the hugely successful *Changing Rooms*. His fame helped him to launch his own range of cushions and picture frames, which he sells through a well-known catalogue, but in the current economic climate, even household names face difficulties shifting their wares. Luckily, Llewelyn-Bowen thinks he has spotted a potential new market, as he tries to start a business selling to emerging middle classes of China and Mexico. However, instead of sticking to home decor, he is instead branching out into lingerie, and this documentary follows him in the build up to the launch.

TUESDAY
Virgin Atlantic: Up in the Air, ITV, 9pm
Cameras follow the launch of the company's new uniform, and Annie who has to fit out thousands of employees. Meanwhile, Rebe, Mim and Helen are putting together a style guide for company staff, and they want airline workers to be the magazine's

models, so hopefuls fly in to Crawley from as far afield as India and San Francisco to compete in the company's Top Model competition. Elsewhere, the pressure is on to get Virgin's new Dreamliner plane delivered on time from Boeing.

WEDNESDAY
Don't Tell the Bride, BBC1, 8pm
Former soldier Alex takes command of his military wedding to his bride-to-be Sacha. Having served in the army for seven years, he wants to celebrate the heroes of World War Two by getting Sacha to arrive at the wedding ceremony in an old war plane, then a tank. However, she is hoping his army days are behind him and is desperate for her big day to be a traditional, intimate event. With a mother-in-law to impress, and a bride hoping he will put her first, will Jason have to run for cover when his plans are revealed?

The Autistic Gardener, Channel 4, 8pm
Award-winning garden designer Alan Gardner and his team of fellow autistic horticultural enthusiasts visit Ealing in west London, where they have taken



Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen: *Cracking China*, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

on a small garden with a big problem. James and Sophie's neglected plot is only eight by four metres and is on two levels, with a one-metre drop. The challenge facing the team is to make the most of the limited space available so that the garden looks and feels bigger, with just one week to make the changes and a budget of £1,200.

THURSDAY
Grand Designs, Channel 4, 8pm
In the second of four special programmes, Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the UK's most remote places, where beautiful landscapes often meet savage weather. Drawing on footage from 15 years of the programme, as well as new visits to extraordinary and incredible homes, Kevin reveals which designs work best, and why. Along the way, he interviews pioneers at the forefront of architecture in the wilderness and sees the astonishing lengths people go to live on the edges of society.

The Live Final, Channel 5, 9pm
It can't be easy to keep coming up with new twists on the Big Brother format, but somehow this series has managed it. Whether it's bringing back legendary former housemates, turning the BB abode into a hotel, or taking a trip through time, this latest run has been hugely entertaining. However, only one of the class of 2015 can win, and it's time for the public to make their final decision. Emma Willis takes charge of the proceedings as she whittles the hopefuls down one by one, taking them through some of the highs and lows of their time on TV.

FRIDAY
T in the Park 2015 – Highlights, BBC2, 11.30pm
No one can doubt the BBC's commitment to music this summer – in the wake of the Beeb's extensive Glastonbury coverage, this evening alone BBC Two is bringing us coverage of the Proms and a selection of the most memorable moments from last weekend's T in the Park. Although it may not be quite as famous as the aforementioned Somerset festival, T in the Park has been going since 1994, and this year celebrated its 21st birthday by moving to a new home of Strathallan Castle in Perthshire. Acts including Kasabian, the Prodigy and Sam Smith.

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Quiet location for large house with lovely views



THIS large property in Wigorn Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge, is situated in a quiet location.

With landscaped gardens, it is for sale through The Lee, Shaw Partnership at £895,000. The detached property has a large reception area with stairs to the first floor, a WC, double doors to the lounge which has access to the patio, dining room, kitchen with integrated appliances, a conservatory, snug area and utility room. Upstairs are five bedrooms, one with en suite, a bathroom and shower rooms. To the rear is a garden with lawn area and pond. The front has two double garages. Visit www.leeshaw.com or contact (01384) 396066.



End-terrace traditional family home is spacious



THIS traditional three-bedroom end-terrace family home in Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich, is deceptively spacious and lies not far from the heart of the Black Country town.

With a larger than average rear garden, off road parking and shared access to a garage, the property is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £124,950 with no chain.

It has a porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, a kitchen with splash back tiling and door to the rear garden. Meanwhile, upstairs there are a total of three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

For further information contact 0121 5202255 or visit the estate agent's website on www.skitts.net



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NEW

HALESOWEN, Grange Road£750 pcm+Fees

A fantastic opportunity to rent this lovely traditional semi-detached house in central Halesowen. This property comprises of: Front reception room, rear lounge, modern fitted kitchen, beautiful rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage. Available August. EPC: D

STOURBRIDGE, Trinity Road£695 pcm+Fees

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CRADLEY HEATH, Best Street£895 pcm+Fees

Wow what a fantastic family home offering coudies of space! With 4 good size bedrooms, huge through lounge/diner, family bathroom, downstairs WC, carport with driveway, great size kitchen and a large garden, to boot! A long term rental opportunity which will be snapped up! EPC: D

NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, Timbertree Crescent£650 pcm+Fees

Recently undergone a full refurbishment, this lovely 3 bedroom semi-detached house is situated in a desirable location close to Haden Hill Park. Entrance hallway leading to front lounge, large modern kitchen/dining area with patio doors leading to private rear garden, side enclosed entrance with downstairs w.c, storage cupboard, 3 good size bedrooms, stylish white bathroom with shower, gas central heating, front garden with driveway. Available mid July. EPC: TBC

HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£625 pcm+Fees

Newly decorated & new carpets throughout is this unfurnished detached house featuring gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with telephone shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, off road parking, unfurnished, large rear garden. Available Now. EPC: E

CRADLEY HEATH, Wrights Lane£575 pcm+Fees

A short distance from Old Hill shops and local train station is this well presented unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: 3 bedrooms, modern fitted diner kitchen, lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, on road parking to front. EPC: TBC

HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£575 pcm+Fees

A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C

HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive£575 pcm+Fees

Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A semi-detached home briefly featuring 1 double bedroom and 2 single bedrooms, spacious lounge, large kitchen with dining area, family bathroom with telephone shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, off road parking, unfurnished, EPC: D

HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees

An extremely well maintained 2 bedroom semi detached property situated towards the head of a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, recently installed double glazing, driveway, gas central heating and easy to maintain rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Holt Road £550 pcm+Fees

Minutes away from Rowley Regis Train Station and not far from the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. A nicely presented refurbished mid terraced home. Featuring 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. Available Now. EPC: D

CRADLEY HEATH, Surfelt Hill Road£525 pcm+Fees

●●LONG TERM RENTAL IS AVAILABLE WITH THIS PROPERTY●● An ideal family home with ample space. Situated between Old Hill and Cradley Heath this 3 bed semi features entrance hall leading to 2 reception rooms with the main reception having a bay window and wooden flooring, fitted kitchen with side veranda with a further reception room off, bathroom with shower, good size bedrooms and driveway parking. EPC: D

CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£495 pcm+Fees

Located in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This unfurnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+Fees

●●FULLY REFURBISHED●●A beautifully presented ground floor apartment having undergone a full refurbishment in the last 12 months. Ideally located for Blackheath Town Centre, Rowley Regis Train Station and the M5 J2. Featuring a large spacious lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a shower. The apartment also has the added bonus of a garage and gardens to front and rear, double glazing and gas central heated. EPC: D

ROWLEY REGIS, Habblerley Road£495 pcm+Fees

This lovely unfurnished mid terraced home is located close to local shops, and minutes away from J2 of the M5. Briefly comprising of 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and off road parking. EPC: E

ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road£425 pcm+Fees

Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E

HALESOWEN, Richmond Court£425 pcm+Fees

A unfurnished 1 bed 1st floor flat that has recently been decorated. Featuring kitchen with integrated appliances, living room, lovely modern shower room, electric storage heating and on road parking. This property is close to Huntingtree Park and a few minutes drive to Halesowen Town Centre. EPC: D

HALESOWEN, Teme Road £395 pcm+Fees

A very well presented and close to Colley Lane Primary School, is this furnished to suit ground floor apartment. Briefly comprising of 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, family bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C

HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £395 pcm+Fees

Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen this unfurnished 2nd floor flat, comprising of: Living room/fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage, and residents parking. Available now. EPC: E

LYE, High Street £375 pcm+Fees

Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/ diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: E

27 Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 9, 2015

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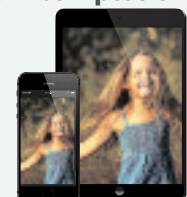
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- EPC TBC

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- Fitted Kitchen / Diner
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Hagley Road West, Oldbury,



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- Good Size Bedrooms
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LAMP Cream and gold lamp on matching pedestal. This is a lovely lamp. Needs to be seen. £30. 07946 306919.

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AUDI A5 2.7 TDI auto Coupe, 08, fsh, Bang & Olufsen, 92k, parking sensors, heated seats, MoT, plus extras, £10,200 ono.
Telephone 07800 552017.

FORD MONDEO GHIA, 1800, PETROL, 04
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0786 7685569.

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FORD FOCUS 1600
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£550 ono.
01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

FORD FOCUS 1.8, 2004, Zetec, 104,000 miles, grey, electric windows, air bag, air con, long MoT, metallic paint. **£795 ono.**
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FORD FUSION 1.6 petrol, 05 reg, 5dr, full MoT, AC, EW, CL, £895.
07611 213816.

HONDA CRV, 1999, 151,000 miles, blue, good condition, good runner, £500 ono. 07825 334505.

NISSAN TERRANO JEEP Alloy wheels, white, full MoT, W reg., £795.
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VAUXHALL CORSA, 2003, 1.25X1, 3 door, peppermint silver, 75,000 miles, full MoT, good reliable clean car. £550. Call 01222 404319.

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9

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For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Grainger's Lane, Cradley Road, St Anne's Road, High Street, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2015 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along the following roads in Cradley Heath: 1) Grainger's Lane - High Street to Station Street (anticipated dates 20/07/15 - 27/07/15), 2) Cradley Road - Grainger's Lane to Station Street (anticipated dates 28/07/15 - 08/08/15), 3) St Anne's Road - High Street to Foxoak Street (anticipated dates 09/08/15 - 18/08/15). The prohibition of right turning into St Anne's Road out of Lower High Street (A4100) and the prohibition of left turning out of St Anne's Road into Lower High Street (A4100) will remain operational throughout the duration of the works. 4) High Street - St Anne's Road to the eastern boundary of No.97a High Street (anticipated dates 19/08/15 - 12/10/15). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/10/15, effective from 20/07/15. Traffic will be diverted as follows: a) For Grainger's Lane via Cradley Road, Station Street and vice-versa. b) For Cradley Road via Grainger's Lane, Station Street and vice-versa. c) For St Anne's Road via Lower High Street and via Foxoak Street, Newtown Lane, High Street and vice-versa. d) For High Street - via St Anne's Road, Foxoak Street, Newtown Lane and vice-versa. Purpose - gas main replacement by Balfour Beatty for National Grid Gas.

10

Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE REP
Tel: 01902 489 181

ATTRACTIVE MALE 36
If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!

I enjoy bowling, cinema, meals out, holidays etc and would like to meet a like minded lady aged 28 to 45 years for friendship hopefully leading to relationship.

Genuine replies only. Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P19900, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOWER 70'S LONELY
WV6 based.
Educated, reliable, tactile, 5ft 5, seeks local 60's female, slim / medium, no smoker, for friendship possible relationship. To enjoy life, outings, holidays, cinema etc.

Box Number P19906, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

TRYSULL TIGERS
F A Charter standard Club
Under 7's East Goalkeeper required for 2015-2016 season. We are also looking for players in all positions to enhance our squad.
Please call Matthew 07973 300150.

GOOD MORNING LADIES
I'm Don, recent to Stourport, mature, educated business man, divorced, 1.75m, GSOH, well dressed, financially secure, enjoys travel, discoveries, history, animals.
A man for all seasons. Seeking slimish like minded maiden, 45-65 hopefully for a great adventure.
Recent photo please, (will return)
All replies answered.
Box Number P19902, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WRENS NEST U18'S M.J.P.L. SIDE
Require experienced Players for new squad.
Players must be aged 15 before August 31 and aged 18 after August 31.
Contact John on 07831 159816.

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LONDON THEATRE BREAKS



Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket and an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast. Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top price ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.*

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),

or go to expressandstar.com/starextratrans
Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



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and follow the simple instructions

To Place your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

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calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network charges

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117

CAROL, 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 412933

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for no complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418080

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons. WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romancing and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinty WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417877

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4754121

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417877

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763

SUSANNAH, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed officer for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. Text only to Mailbox No: 427985

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513

CARINE lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. Text only to Mailbox No: 4271992

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419

LOOK FORWARD TO THE WEEKEND!
FIND PEOPLE NEAR YOU LOOKING FOR LOVE AND LAUGHTER!
DON'T LEAVE IT TO CHANCE!
TAKE THE GUESS WORK OUT OF GETTING TOGETHER. WITH OUR NEW MATCHMAKER SERVICE.
IT JUST TAKES A FEW SIMPLE TEXT MESSAGES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE NEAR YOU.
TRY IT FOR YOURSELF AND START MEETING NEW PEOPLE TODAY!
TEXT NOW TO 89990

before messages appear on the screen. This is not a computer generated. Messages are moderated by a real person. Please do not use for anything other than dating. Text only to Mailbox No: 417341

TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417

SUSANNAH, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

GWEN 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

FUN loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more, GSH and grey hair preferable! Text only to Mailbox No: 4709317

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415335

KIND caring lady early 30s, 5ft5, slim fair hair looking for long-term relationship in Learnington Spa area. Text only to Mailbox No: 452727

HAPPY, fit, 77yr old widow N/S 5ft 3in. GSOH Loves travel, many interests. WLTm man with caravan/camper to share week-ends/holidays. Text only to Mailbox No: 4492014

LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

FEMALE seeking good 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTm attractive down to earth looking for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks fun, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

GWEN middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821

ASIA very attractive slim single black 32yr female looking for fun times with good time guy with GSOH and a real passion for life and falling in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415837

SARAH 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded boreless male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

SLIM fair-haired lady, 5ft4 looking for a male 30 to 40 for LTR in Warwickshire area. Text Only Mailbox No: 452727

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTm attractive down to earth looking for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299

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SARAH 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded boreless male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm tall talish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubbly fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid the boredom! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523

SUE attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be with WLTm genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, age for fun and sex. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415387

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415249

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415409

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to have some fun with, meals out, cinema, dancing and just see where things lead from there. Age/race unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415373

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty, feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in or out, seeking mature white male 55plus for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415181

MARGARET 39, attractive active female likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking discrete partner for good laughs, companionship, shared interests and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414727

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, no drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

BUBBLY larger than life 28yr old blonde bombshell, seeks large built male to fulfil my every fantasy! Give me a call. I will totally make your day maybe even your year. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414977

BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde, varied interests, single and ready to date, seeks kind honest guy for shared interests, fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967

MALE, outgoing 5ft10 medium built, seeking the right lady, local and caring. Likes to have fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4750169

MIKE, 61, 5ft 5in, Coalville area seeking 30+ year old lady with long blonde hair and blue eyes for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4709567

MALE nurse, tall dark and handsome, 44yrs old, easy going, romantic, seeks female for lots of off duty fun and romance! Derby area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4172512

MALE, 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651

BBW lower looking for fun and frolics in the bath or evening. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417795

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801

WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417439

MALE, medium build, down to earth, salt & pepper hair, GSOH, Sincere, WLTm someone similar. Text only to Mailbox No: 4744385

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discreet, assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823

MALE, 59, discreet, fit body, seeks lady for companionship and more. Car owner. Text only to Mailbox No: 4823076

ATTRACTIVE widower seeks lady 55-70 for companionship and more. Car owner. Text only to Mailbox No: 4828789

ANDY 40, own home, likes keep fit, cooking, nights in/out, seeks special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309103

SINGLE male non smoker, looking for soul mate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550

JOE 60s seeking fun loving lady for discreet LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4257766

40YR old male, seeking female, old fashioned, romantic, likes walks, romantic movies, meals out and fine woman. Tel No: 0906



New Tucson to cost £18,695

Hyundai Motor UK has announced the pricing and specification of the company's new compact SUV, All-New Tucson, on sale in the UK from September.

Prices start from £18,695 for the entry level S trim, which includes: DAB digital radio with MP3 compatibility; Bluetooth® connectivity, with USB and AUX connections; 16" alloy wheels; air conditioning; and automatic headlights with dusk sensor.

Customers of the SE derivative, priced from £20,495, will benefit from additional equipment, including: 17"

alloy wheels; rear parking sensors; heated front seats; Lane Keep Assist System; projection headlights with cornering lights; and dual zone climate control.

From £21,295, SE Nav buyers will also get new-generation 8" touch-screen satellite navigation featuring: TMC, reversing camera, MapCare, Tom Tom Live Services and a shark fin antenna.

SE Nav also comes with Hyundai's innovative Speed Limit Information System (SLIF), which uses the front camera and information from the navigation system to identify road speed signs and display the speed limit in real time.

Premium equipment levels also include:

19" alloy wheels (excluding 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive which has 17" Alloy Wheels); leather upholstery; front parking sensors; Rear Cross Traffic Alert; automatic windscreen wipers with rain sensor; Autonomous Emergency Braking; Blind Spot Detection; and heated rear seats. Prices for the Premium derivative start from £25,045.

The range-topping Premium SE model, available from £28,345, features: heated steering wheel; keyless smart entry with engine start/stop button; Smart Parking Assist System (SPAS - Automatic Transmission only); smart electric tailgate; LED headlights; panoramic sunroof with electric tilt and slide function; and ventilated front seats.



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<p>08/58 Volkswagen Golf 1.9TDi Match Diesel 5dr, 72k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £6495 / £34 Per Week</p>	<p>10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/57 Mini Cooper 1.6 With JCW Body Styling 72k, Red/Black Alloys, Red Leather Trim, Air Con, E/Windows, Fog Lights £5995 / £30 Per Week</p>	<p>09/09 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v Desire 57k, Grey Metallic, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Ford Focus TDCi Zetec Diesel Estate 67k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Heated Front Screen £5495 / £28 Per Week</p>	<p>08/08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr *ONE OWNER* 55k, Red, Air Conditioning, CD Player, Electric Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Ford Focus 2.0TDCi CC-2 Diesel Convertible 38k, Blue, Alloys, E/Windows, Heated Front Screen £5495 / £28 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, 53k, Violet, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Heated Screen, CD £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDiVTR Plus Diesel Automatic 7 Seater, 64k, Beige, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, CD, Climate Pack £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>06/06 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 VVT + 3dr 4WD *ONE OWNER* 58k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week</p>	<p>07/56 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 16V Exclusiv 2dr Convertible, 47k, Silver, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3795 / £18 Per Week</p>
<p>03/53 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 Di SYE Diesel 4WD, ONLY 52k, Beige, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Sat-Nav, CD, Sunroof £4995 / £41 Per Week</p>	<p>08/57 Ford KA 1.3 Luxury ONLY 12k Miles, Blue, Full Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3495 / £18 Per Week</p>
<p>01/51 Landover Discovery TD5 GS Diesel Automatic 7 seater, 89k, Green, Alloys, E/Windows, Twin Sunroof £4995 / £41 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Fiat Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr, 39 k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, CD £3295 / £19 Per Week</p>
<p>09/59 Fiat Panda 1.1 Active ECO 5dr, *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* ONLY 17k miles, White, CD Player, Electric Windows £3995 / £19 Per Week</p>	<p>06/06 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 5dr, 58k, Red, CD Player, E/Windows £2995 / £18 Per Week</p>

Finance example: 07/57 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, Cash Price £3995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £80.83 (£18.66 per week) Total amount payable £5149.80 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Sport Tourer 2.8i 325PS VXR Supersport NAV 24v V6 Turbo 4x4 with 18", 19" & 20" wheels, M6: Urban: 17.7 (16.0), Extra-urban: 35.8 (7.9), Combined: 25.9 (10.9). CO₂ emissions: 255g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Viva 5 Door Hatchback 1.0i 75PS SE with Eco Tyre 14", 15" and 16" wheels, M5: Urban: 52.3 (5.4), Extra-urban: 76.3 (3.7), Combined: 64.2 (4.3). CO₂ emissions: 99g/km.

Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th June 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to availability at participating Retailers only. *5 years OX APR offer excludes Sting, Techline and Viva models. Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-36 month term available. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle. Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle. ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace. Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.



New MINI Clubman a better ride than ever

By James Parker

Another new chapter has opened in the re-generation of the MINI model family, with the debut of the new MINI Clubman.

Following the success of the re-energised MINI 3-door Hatch and the successful launch of the MINI 5-door Hatch, the new model offers customers a premium vehicle featuring the highest level of ride refinement ever seen in a MINI.

The car's much-loved signature design feature – its split rear doors – are retained, while accessibility and everyday usability are further enhanced thanks to four full-sized side doors.

The resulting car is a powerful fusion of sleek lines, innovative touches and first-rate materials with generous space for five occupants, excellent luggage capacity and classic MINI driving characteristics.

With a more mature and sophisticated design, the new MINI Clubman's dimensions are larger than those of the previous generation MINI Clubman. It's also 270 mm longer and 73 mm wider than the MINI 5-door Hatch, with a wheelbase which is 100 mm larger. The boot has a volume of 360 litres, which can be extended to 1,250 litres by folding the rear seats flat.

The latest generation of MINI TwinPower Turbo Technology engines have been installed under the bonnet, with three units available from launch – the MINI Cooper Clubman, MINI Cooper D Clubman and MINI Cooper S Clubman. CO2 emissions are as low as 109g/km, with fuel economy of up to 68.9mpg.

New to the MINI brand is an 8-speed Steptronic transmission, available as an option on the MINI Cooper S Clubman and the MINI Cooper D Clubman. Exceptional handling comes courtesy of a suspension set-up which is unique to the new MINI Clubman.

Acclaimed

Numerous features make their MINI brand debut on the new Clubman, included an electric parking brake, full electric seat adjustment and the optional MINI Yours Interior Styles with backlit door bezels.

The new MINI Clubman includes MINI's highly acclaimed Navigation System as standard on all models, exemplifying the high levels of standard equipment across the range. Furthermore, every MINI Clubman also benefits from the MINI Excitement Package as standard, which features a projection of the brand logo on to the ground beneath the driver's side door mirror when the car is opened and closed, as well as extended interior lighting.

With production starting at MINI Plant Oxford later this year, order books for the New MINI Clubman open at MINI dealers nationwide this week.

Pricing for the newest member of the MINI family starts at £19,995 on-the-road for the MINI Cooper Clubman.

The new MINI Clubman showcases a contemporary re-interpretation of its predecessor's design, combining sporting style with outstanding functionality. The car's silhouette, with its extended roof line and steeply angled rear, remains an obvious link to the Clubman's heritage, both recent and historic.



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Three VWs to get new ultra-frugal engines

By James Parker

UK order books are now open for a raft of new ultra-frugal petrol models in the Golf hatchback, Estate and SV. Powered by a new three-cylinder 1.0-litre 115 PS turbocharged petrol engine, the new Golf TSI BlueMotion returns 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of just 99 g/km.

Also available for the first time with a BlueMotion engine is the option of a DSG automatic gearbox. These cars combine the economy benefits of a diesel with the upfront price benefits of a petrol, with the Golf Match TSI BlueMotion costing £19,740 recommended price on-the-road.

The first deliveries of these cars are due in September.

At the heart of the TSI BlueMotion is a 1.0-litre (999 cc) three-cylinder turbocharged TSI engine from the EA211 series. This generates 115 PS from 5,000 to 5,500 rpm; standstill to 62 mph takes 9.7 seconds while top speed is 127 mph.

With 200 Nm, the TSI BlueMotion has the highest specific torque of any large-scale production series of petrol engines. This is available from 2,000 rpm, though 150 Nm is already delivered from just 1,500 rpm.

Combined economy for the Golf hatchback is 65.7 mpg with CO2 emissions of 99 g/km for both the six-speed manual and seven-speed DSG versions. Such economy is achieved through substantial engine development as well as a number of aerodynamic measures.

By lowering the chassis by 15 mm, adapting the radiator grille, optimising the cooling airflow and fitting special underfloor panels and a rear spoiler, the Golf TSI BlueMotion's Cd value has been reduced to 0.28 (from 0.29 in the standard Golf).

The car also features super low rolling resistance tyres. While this improvement may sound modest, it should be noted that in developing the seventh generation Golf, engineers made a 10 per cent improvement in aerodynamics.

Integrated

Inside the engine, an ultra-rigid crankcase made of light-weight die-cast aluminium and its compact construction with three cylinders mean the 1.0-litre TSI is around 15 kg lighter than a comparable four-cylinder engine.

The exhaust manifold has been fully integrated into the cylinder head and fitted with a cooling jacket to make the best possible use of exhaust gas energy during the warm-up phase and to cool the exhaust gases even more effectively at high loads.

The TSI BlueMotion is also fitted with a toothed belt, which compared to a chain drive, reduces friction by around 30 per cent, while the maximum injection pressure of the 1.0-litre TSI is high for a petrol at 250 bar, while advanced five-hole solenoid injectors ensure precise fuel injections and results in faster energy conversion.

Unlike the diesel BlueMotion model which is based on the entry-level S, the Golf TSI BlueMotion comes as standard in Match trim.

As such it benefits from equipment highlights including ESC, XDS and seven airbags, an Automatic Post Collision Braking System, a PreCrash system, cruise control, stop/start with battery regeneration and driver alert (NB ACC and Front Assist are not standard).

The Golf Match TSI BlueMotion has 16-inch 'Dover' alloy wheels.

This new 1.0-litre BlueMotion engine will also be available in the Golf Estate and Golf SV, with predicted fuel economy figures of 65.7 mpg and 99 g/km (103 for DSG) for the Estate, and 62.8 mpg / 105 g/km (61.4/105 for DSG) for the SV.



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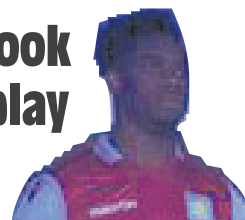
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Wolves in good start with a win

FC Chamblly 2 Wolves 3

A five-goal thriller, a late winner, some well-taken goals, plenty of chances and a competitive edge – this was pretty much as good as friendlies get.

Kenny Jackett selected, give or take, his strongest available XI, with Nouna Dicko and Benik Afobe leading the line against third tier French side FC Chamblly.

But, with a pre-season game already behind them, it was Chamblly who made most of the early running.

Jon Platt, Wolves' most senior keeper with Carl Ikeme and Aaron McCarey absent, was forced into two early saves with Jackett's team generally hesitant and off the pace in the opening exchanges.

Wolves fell behind when hesitant defending allowed Lookmane Ouédraogo to squeeze a shot through Platt's hands, with the ball rolling slowly over the line despite the keeper's despairing second dive.

Wolves rose to the challenge and their best move of the game resulted in a prompt equaliser.

Michael Jacobs, beginning his big audition for the left-wing role made vacant by Bakary Sako's departure, sent a diving header past the keeper.

And it was last season's 32-goal hitman Afobe who edged Wolves in front with a poacher's finish after controlling a deflected Rajiv van La Parra shot.

In the second half Wolves struggled to find their rhythm. Chamblly levelled when Ouédraogo headed past a helpless Harry Burgoyne.

But it was Wolves' other substitute, 18-year-old striker Donovan Wilson, who re-energised the team with some searing pace.

But it was Enobakhare who was in the right place at the right time when he scored a last-gasp winner.

Wolves pull out of deal for Wood due to £3m price tag

WOLVES have pulled out of the race to sign Chris Wood. It is believed Leicester City want £3m for the former Albion man – a figure Wolves are not prepared to match.

Championship rivals Leeds are thought to have stumped up the cash and Wood will sign for the Yorkshire club imminently.

It was initially thought Leicester would have accepted around the £1m mark for the New Zealand international, but sources have revealed that their desired figure is three times that amount.

The 23-year-old has just 12 months left on his deal at the King Power Stadium and cost the Foxes around £2m plus add-ons when he moved from Albion in 2013.

Wolves had hoped the East Midlands club would accept a far lower fee. They have long held an interest in the player – boss Kenny Jackett keen to sign the man he had him on loan at Millwall in 2012.

Wood scored 11 goals in 18 starts for the Lions and also netted prolifically for Birmingham during another loan spell a year earlier.

Greaves is optimistic over injuries

NATHAN Greaves is backing Cradley to battle through their injury problems and get a National League title challenge back on track.

Heathens have lost Greaves to a broken leg – and Michael Neale had surgery last week to plate his broken collarbone.

They'll be looking for three more league points when Buxton visit Perry Barr on Wednesday, July 22 with the possibility of a temporary signing covering for Neale.

And Greaves admits he's not the best of spectators as he prepares to see out the season on the injury list.

Greaves said: "It's been a tough couple of

Speedway

weeks for Cradley, but after winning the League and nearly every trophy going the last two years it was bound to happen sooner or later.

"Some bad luck was always going to come around at some stage, that's just the way speedway goes, and with me and Mike Neale getting injured at the same time things haven't been easy.

"It's frustrating watching updates and not being able to ride, but I'm sure the boys will get through it and manage to get going again.

"As a team we've just got to keep working hard

and doing the best we can, and I'm sure we'll be able to pick things up again.

"Hopefully the team can start winning again soon and we can still be in the mix for the title at the end of the year."

Meanwhile Neale will be having laser treatment in a bid to speed up his recovery from the collarbone injury.

He said: "I was at Birmingham last week to see Steve Williams the physio, and he said to give him a call once my operation was done so I've got in touch with him and started having treatment.

"If that all goes well I'm hoping to be back on a bike in 3-4 weeks, so fingers crossed."

SKIPPER STEPS DOWN AT CLUB

HALESOWEN Cricket Club Chairman Richard Evans is urging everyone at the club to get behind new skipper Richard Brooker.

Brooker will take charge for the first time against Tamworth in Saturday's home game after Faisal Shahid resigned on Monday.

Shahid resigned in the aftermath of their latest defeat at the hands of league leaders Sutton Coldfield.

Evans said: "Richard is an experienced player and I hope all the club gets behind him as we aim to push up the table in the second half of the season.

"We wish Faisal well as he continues to represent Halesowen as a player, and thank him for all of his hard work over the past season and a half."

Shahid took over as skipper in April last year after Wes Griffiths stepped down following two seasons at the helm.

Optimism

Saturday's defeat means Halesowen are hovering just above the relegation zone despite all the pre-season optimism.

"The bowling unit did well to restrict Sutton Coldfield to 204, but once again our batting frailties were exposed.

"Too many wickets were gifted to the opposition and we simply aren't putting as high a price on our wicket as we should be.

"This week was always likely to bring a lot of soul searching," Evans added.

With the season at the halfway point Halesowen will need an upturn in form to preserve their status.

Wins against the teams below them in the table, Brewood, Eastnor and Stourbridge will be vital.

Adam Hawker's 2nd XI maintained the pressure on the league leaders with a winning draw at Kenilworth Wards thanks to a fine maiden century from 17-year-old Deon Patel as Halesowen posted 254-5 from their 50 overs.

Hawker led from the front with 3-54 from his 15 overs with the other spinners picking up the remaining wickets.

Red Bull charge over Albion



West Bromwich Albion's Brown Ideye shielding the ball during the action against Red Bull

Red Bull 3 Albion 1

ALBION made a losing start to their pre-season programme as they went down 3-1 to Austrian champions Red Bull Salzburg in the Alps.

Marco Djuricin, Jonatan Soriano and Takumi Minamino scored for the Austrians with teenager Adil Nabi replying for the Baggies, who used 21 players in their first friendly outing.

With the first half played in heavy rain in the small town of Schlading, Boaz Myhill made a low save early on to keep out a drive from Red Bull's Jonatan Soriano and Christoph Leitgeb drew another save from the Baggies keeper

shortly afterwards. Soriano and Valon Berisha went close for the Austrian side before Myhill made a point-blank save to deny Djuricin.

But Djuricin fired Red Bull in front on 33 minutes, sneaking a shot inside Myhill's left-hand post from 20 yards.

It was 2-0 to the Austrians just six minutes later when Soriano got on the scoresheet. He burst into the box and beat Myhill from 10 yards.

Callum McManaman tried his luck for Albion two minutes before half-time with a 20-yard shot that was parried by goalkeeper Cican Stankovic before Havard Nielsen drew another good save from Myhill.

Brits have sure place in the final

A British player is guaranteed a place in Sunday's men's and women's doubles wheelchair tennis finals at Wimbledon after the draw was made at the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Grand Slam champions Jordanne Whitley and Gordon Reid will both face fellow Brits on the opposite side of the net in their respective women and men's semi-finals.

Whitley was among the special guests invited into the royal enclosure at Wimbledon in the traditional ritual of the middle Saturday.

She and Japan's Yui Kamiji will play Britain's Louise Hunt and Germany's Katharina Kruger as the top seeds begin their Wimbledon women's doubles titles defence tomorrow with a rematch of last November's UNIQLO Wheelchair Doubles Masters final in California.

Whitley and Kamiji won that contest to retain their Doubles Masters title and after finishing runners-up at Roland Garros last month, they will be aiming for their sixth Grand Slam doubles title in the last seven majors, having completed the calendar year Grand Slam in 2014.

"Winning my home Grand Slam in 2014 was an absolutely unforgettable experience and Wimbledon is my favourite tournament, so it's going to be very special being on court with two Brits in our semi-final and hopefully some enthusiastic crowds cheering us on," said Whitley, 23.

Whitley was recently awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List after becoming the first British tennis player to complete a calendar year Grand Slam in any event last year. "Me and Yui have had several days of practice on the grass now and we're looking forward to moving on from Roland Garros and defending our Wimbledon title."

Mac will stay if the deal is right

KEVIN McDonald insists he doesn't want to leave Wolves and has vowed to sign a new contract if the deal is right.

The midfielder spoke out earlier this week suggesting his future was in the balance, amid interest from Wolves' Championship rivals Fulham.

But the 26-year-old wants his future sorted in the next couple of weeks – and sees that future at Wolves.

McDonald has 12 months remaining on his current deal.

He said: "Hopefully talks start soon and I'll get something sorted here and then we can relax and move on.

"My agent will be speaking to Wolves."

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford.
Thursday, July 9, 2015

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